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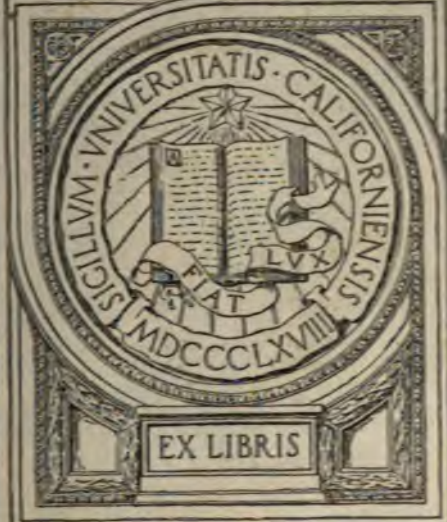

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Engraved by Henry Meyer

Her Majesty
Queen Charlotte

ETAT. XXIII.

Published Dec.r 10. 1818. by Henry Colburn, Conduit Street, London

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

MEMOIRS

OF

HER MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

Sophia-Charlotte,

QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN,

FROM AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS.

BY

JOHN WATKINS, LL.D.

AUTHOR OF THE LIFE OF SHERIDAN,

&c. &c.

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1819.

UNIV OF CALIFORNIA

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From Professor John S. Tatlock

B. Clarke, Printer, Well Street, London.

WITH

SENTIMENTS OF PROFOUND RESPECT,

AND

A SACRED REVERENCE

FOR

SORROW OCCASIONED BY AN IRREPARABLE LOSS,

IN WHICH

ALL HEARTS MUST PARTICIPATE;

THIS HUMBLE ATTEMPT TO SKETCH

A CHARACTER,

THAT,

BY THE SPECIAL BLESSING OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

UPON THESE REALMS,

HAS SHONE, WITH A LUSTRE UNPARALLELED,

FOR NEAR SIXTY YEARS,

AN UNIFORM EXAMPLE

OF ALL THE VIRTUES THAT COULD ADORN

THE WIFE, THE MOTHER, AND THE

QUEEN,

IS MOST HUMBLY AND DUTIFULLY INSCRIBED

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE

PRINCE REGENT.

M300999

PREFACE.

It was a custom with the antient Egyptians, when persons of eminence departed this life, to institute a minute investigation of their conduct in the midst of a general assembly of the people, and according as the balance was found to preponderate on the side of virtue, so was the degree of respect awarded by the public voice to their remains.

After making all due allowance for ordinary errors, and unavoidable infirmities, if the character appeared worthy of general imitation, no honours were thought too great, or ceremonies too expensive, to endear the memory of the deceased, and to perpetuate the record of his actions.

What was thus practised by a nation proverbially celebrated for wisdom, is now become the province of the Historian; and though he has it not in his power to restrict the parade of funereal grandeur, which wealth may purchase, and ambition command, it is his chronicle only that posterity will consult for the deeds of those who in their day were distinguished above the rest of mankind.

Here, as in the grave, the mighty are on a level with the mean; and, however elegant may be the language of interested flatterers, their eulogiums

must soon sink into contempt when devoid of the principle of truth. Nothing can kindle the emotion of gratitude, the sentiment of admiration, and the feeling of emulation, in contemplating the sepulchres of the great, but the faithful memorial of those virtues which will alone remain fragrant amidst the murkiness of the tomb.

Still it is necessary, for the great end of moral instruction, that the lights who have illumined our hemisphere should be registered with scrupulous exactness in the pages of history, to recall men's minds to a consideration of the bright examples which Providence so long continued above the horizon, as guides in the path of immortality.

They who are elevated above the mass of society are objects of general observation during life; and when they depart hence, inquiries naturally arise respecting their public actions and private deportment.

Happy is it, therefore, when the biographer, who undertakes the task of gratifying this spirit of curiosity, as far as his means of intelligence allow, is released from the necessity of becoming an APOLOGIST, and finds himself under no other obligation than that of discharging the simple duty of a NARRATOR.

Such is the situation in which the author of the ensuing Memoir stands, both as it regards the existing generation and posterity; the living, who seek for information, and the illustrious shade who is now beyond the praise or censure of mortals, in that

sphere "where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are in everlasting rest."

In tracing the course of this exalted personage, who shone, with no borrowed light, through the darkness, storms, and tempests of an evil age, the reader, as he proceeds from year to year, sees the same fixedness of moral and religious principle amidst the shocks of revolutions, the violence of factions, and the increased licentiousness of the times.

The biography of sovereigns placed in such circumstances, and whose lives have been protracted to an unusual period, is expected to abound in remarkable incidents, in the relation of private cabals, the detail of political connexions, and all that variety of matter, emphatically comprised in the term of secret history. Here, on the contrary, the story, though long in itself, from the extent of the period, and interesting on account of its objects, exhibits an even tenour of active virtue uncontaminated by the turbid corruptions of party, and totally free from the imputation of insincerity.

They who look for particulars of regal pageantry will be little gratified in the perusal of this narrative; and still less will those readers be pleased whose vitiated taste is only to be allured by the whisperings of scandal, details of conversations that never occurred, and anecdotes of circumstances that originate only in the fertility of imagination.

But happily there are minds who rise above the impertinence of idle curiosity, who seek information respecting departed excellence, not for amusement only, but for edification; and who, with an emulative spirit, wish to retrace the graces, which eminently adorned a long life of usefulness, that they may be enabled, as far as the difference of station will permit, to "go and do likewise."

To such persons is this volume committed; and with their approbation the writer will be abundantly rewarded.

MEMOIRS

OF

HER MAJESTY

QUEEN CHARLOTTE,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

Genealogical Anecdotes of the House of Mecklenburg.—Account of the Vandals.—Conversion of Pribislaus.—Change of Government.—Disputes about the Succession.—Artful Conduct of Canute.—Mecklenburg shakes off the Danish Yoke.—Character of John the Divine.—Captivity of his Son in the Holy Land.—Henry the Lion.—Mecklenburg erected into a Duchy.—Albert, King of Sweden.—Generosity of Duke John.—Reformation introduced by Henry the Pacific.—Dukes of Mecklenburg put to the Ban of the Empire.—Relieved by Gustavus-Adolphus.—Character of Duke Adolphus-Frederic.—Eccentricity of his Son.—Disputes between the Branches of Schwerin and Strelitz.—Alliance with Russia.—Misfortunes of the Princess of Mecklenburg.—Conclusion.

THE House of Mecklenburg may vie in point of antiquity, and succession of sovereignty, with the first monarchies in Europe, being enabled to trace an uninterrupted course to the Vandalian kings,

whose early history is lost in the darkness of tradition. The last of these chiefs, Pribislaus the Second, after a long and sanguinary contest with Henry the Lion, Duke of Saxony, was obliged to relinquish the regal title for that of Prince of Mecklenburg. This event happened in the year 1163, at which time the inhabitants of this country were for the most part Pagans of a ferocious character, and enslaved to a gloomy superstition. But war has been one of the instruments of Providence to civilize nations; and whatever were the motives of the victor in this case, the people whom he conquered became improved by the change of their government. Partial attempts had been made to convert them, but without effect; and though some of their princes had manifested an inclination to the Christian faith, they soon apostatized through dread of their barbarous subjects. The change that had now taken place was favourable to the good work; and Henry, with the hearty concurrence of Pribislaus, set about it in a manner that deserves admiration. Many of the Saxons, who, by serving in Italy, had acquired much useful knowledge, with a degree of refinement, received encouragement to settle in Mecklenburg, where their conversation and example soon effected a surprising alteration in the manners of the inhabitants.

Pribislaus died at a very advanced age, leaving two sons, Canute, his successor, and Henry Burewin.

On the demise of the former without issue, the succession was disputed between Henry Burewin and his uncle Nicholas, both of whom agreed to abide by the arbitration of Waldemar, King of Denmark, the Duke of Saxony being now under the ban of the empire, and an exile in England. Waldemar decided that Nicholas should enjoy the town and district of Rostock, while Henry possessed Mecklenburg and Hovia, with their dependencies; but that both should hold their principalities as fiefs of the crown of Denmark. To this preposterous decree, the contending parties assented; and thus the Danish monarchs acquired the title of kings of the Vandals.

Henry Burewin, Prince of Mecklenburg, after a reign of thirty-six years, during which his subjects prospered greatly, resigned the administration to his two sons, and retired to a life of privacy and devotion. He was twice married, first to Maud, daughter of the Prince of Brunswick, by whom he had two sons and a daughter; secondly to Adelhard, daughter of the King of Poland, who brought him no issue.

The names of the two sons were Henry, who settled at Gustrow; and Nicholas, who resided at Mecklenburg, while their cousin, the Count of Schwerin, dwelt in the city of that name, around which he had a considerable estate. The history of this last Prince of the family is too remarkable

to be passed over in silence. According to the superstition of those times, he undertook an expedition to the Holy Land, leaving his wife under the protection of Waldemar, who abused the trust placed in him, by seducing the lady in the absence of her husband. The count at his return was informed of his dishonour, but concealed his resentment till a convenient opportunity should offer of avenging his wrongs with effect. This occurred soon after in a hunting party on the isle of Luith, where Waldemar, being fatigued with the chace, fell asleep in his tent, from whence he was secretly conveyed on board a vessel, and carried to Schwerin. Here he was confined in the castle of Danneberg three years, during which his family and the nobles of Denmark made great exertions for the redemption of their sovereign, by offering large sums for his ransom, and interesting both the Emperor and the Pope in his behalf. An imperial diet was accordingly convoked upon the occasion, where the matter underwent a long debate, in the course of which Waldemar was offered his liberty on condition of relinquishing all his territories and conquests lying near the river Elbe. This proposition Waldemar rejected with indignation; and the Count of Schwerin no less disdainfully despised the menaces of the Pope, who assumed to himself the right of determining between him and his rival. In this crisis the count, with the other princes of

his house, took the field, and in a short space made themselves masters of all the lands which the Danes had conquered in Vandalia. Thus reduced, the states of the kingdom urged Waldemar to comply with the terms that had been offered, to which he at length reluctantly assented. But though bound by a solemn oath to observe his engagements, he had scarcely recovered his freedom before he violated them all, under the sanction of a papal absolution; and having collected a large army, marched towards the Elbe, on the banks of which he was opposed by a confederate force, and defeated.

Thus Mecklenburg established its independence, but which it lost again on the death of Burewin the Second, who, by dividing his territories among his sons, so weakened the family, that the princes entered into a treaty with Eric the Sixth of Denmark, whom they acknowledged as their sovereign, and protector against the growing power of the emperors.

John, the eldest of these Princes, and the immediate ancestor of the present House of Mecklenburg, was a very extraordinary character. In his youth he studied at the university of Paris, where he made so great a progress in philosophy and scholastic theology, as to receive the degree of doctor, accompanied with the appellation of the Divine. He had, however, much higher pretensions to that honourable distinction than what arose from his skill in metaphysical subtleties; for he turned his

knowledge to the noble purpose of reforming his subjects, numbers of whom lived by plunder, and all were in a state of deplorable ignorance. The patriotic labours of this accomplished prince were crowned with success, and he had also the satisfaction of freeing his country from the incursions of the Livonians, so that on all accounts he richly merited the epithet bestowed upon him by the courtesy of the times.

He was succeeded in 1260 by his eldest son, Henry, who, instead of following his father's course, and living among his people, embarked for the Holy Land; but on the voyage fell into the hands of the Saracens, who carried him to Grand Cairo, where he remained twenty-six years, supported by the labours of his domestic, who, having been bred in the silk manufacture, was enabled to earn a good livelihood during this long captivity.

At length, by the liberality of a new Sultan, the prince regained his liberty; and, after many extraordinary adventures, reached his patrimonial dominions, which had been greatly improved, and even enlarged, during his long absence, under the prudent government of one of his brothers.

Instead of profiting by this example of economy, and by his own misfortunes, Henry almost immediately after his arrival made war upon a neighbouring state, and took the city of Wismar. Death, however, put a stop to his ambition the year following, when he was succeeded by his son,

Henry the Lion, in whose time Nicholas Burewin, of the Mecklenburg family, having involved himself in trouble by disputes with Brandenburg, sold the principality of Rostock to the King of Denmark. This alienation so irritated the inhabitants of the ceded country, that to appease them, the Danish monarch was under the necessity of appointing Henry the Lion to the government. Henry having married the daughter of the Margrave of Brandenburg, claimed in her right an estate which was disputed by her brother John, on which, each appealed to arms, when the latter was defeated, and obliged to resign the province of Stargard to the victor.

Henry the Lion, who may be considered as the founder of the branch of Strelitz, died after a glorious reign in 1329, leaving by his second wife two sons, Albert, his successor in the principality of Mecklenburg, and John, who inherited by his father's will the lordship of Stargard.

In consideration of the services rendered to Charles the Fourth, they were created by him in 1349 dukes of the empire.

The Swedish nobility having deposed their sovereign, Magnus, for his tyranny, offered the vacant throne to the Count of Holstein, on whose refusal it was tendered to Albert, eldest son of the Duke of Mecklenburg, by whom, with the consent of his father and the other members of his family, it was accepted. This naturally produced a long and

sanguinary war, in which the cause of Magnus was supported by the Kings of Norway and Denmark, while Albert had no other ally on whom he could depend but his father, who made great sacrifices to secure his son in the seat which he had so imprudently taken. For some time Albert was very successful, and by entering into a treaty with Denmark, but chiefly by getting Magnus into his hands, he appeared to have overcome all his difficulties. The case, however, was otherwise, for on the death of Waldemar a new enemy arose in the person of Margaret, the second daughter of that monarch, and widow of Haquin, King of Norway. This remarkable woman, who has been called the Northern Semiramis, was left with one son, Olaus, whom she set up as the heir of Waldemar, and succeeded in getting him recognized, while she was admitted to govern during his minority. On the death of Olaus, the Danish nobility raised her to the throne, to which she added that of Norway, and soon afterwards assumed the title of Queen of Sweden.

The old Duke Albert was now dead, but the Mecklenburg family made a common cause with their relative, the King of Sweden, who collected all his forces; and a general battle was fought near Falkoping, which was completely decisive in favour of Margaret. Albert and his son Eric were made prisoners, together with the Prince of Holstein, and a number of the Swedish nobles. At this time the

duchy of Mecklenburg was in the hands of John, the nephew of Albert, which prince supported the cause of his uncle with the greatest heroism and disinterested generosity. His ardour was increased rather than cooled by the defeat at Falkoping; and having borrowed large sums of the Teutonic knights, upon the mortgage of some of his estates, he fitted out a powerful armament, with which in person he traversed the Baltic seas, and committed such ravages on the coast of Sweden as compelled Margaret to enter into a negotiation for peace. After many discussions, Albert and his son regained their liberty upon condition of renouncing all pretensions to the crown of Sweden, and paying a considerable sum by way of ransom, which money was raised by the ladies of Mecklenburg, who for that purpose sold their jewels and paraphernalia. As a reward for this act of patriotism, a law was passed, rendering the daughters of the nobility of Mecklenburg capable of succeeding to the estates held in fee of the duke.

This affection of the Duke John was the more remarkable and honourable, as the imprisonment of his uncle and nephew gave him entire possession of the sovereignty, while their release obliged him to divide the power with Albert, who, it was reasonable to suppose, would not be inclined to live a quiet life, after having been a king for twenty-three years.

The tranquillity of Mecklenburg, however, remained without interruption till the death of Albert in 1412, when his son, of the same name by a second marriage, came to be partner in the government with Duke John. An alteration in the constitution was then made, by which, in cases of coregency, it was settled that the elder duke should preside in all affairs of government, while the younger acted as first minister. Soon after this, John entered into a confederacy with the Princes of Stargard, Brunswick, Holstein, and Sleswick, against Eric, King of Denmark, who had encroached upon their common privileges. This contest was carried on with great vigour on both sides, till the Duke of Mecklenburg, who occupied Sleswick, was compelled by the weakness of the place to surrender, and agree to withdraw from the alliance into which he had entered. This capitulation gave the princes of the Mecklenburg family that repose of which their respective territories stood greatly in need. But if the impoverished state of the country rendered peace necessary, the manners of the people called for it no less, as the predatory warfare in which they had been so long engaged only served to increase their natural ferocity, and to indispose them for the habits of social life. In order, therefore, to correct these evils, Duke John undertook several public works, which excited a spirit of in-

dustry; and he also founded the university of Rostock for the encouragement of learning.

This excellent prince, and his colleague, Albert, died in 1423. The former had been married twice and left two sons, but Duke Albert left no issue.

John, the third duke, died in 1443, leaving the inheritance to his brother, Henry, called the Fat, who became sole Duke of Mecklenburg and Prince of Wenden, which estates he governed with great prudence and tranquillity till his death, an event that happened in 1477. By Dorothea, daughter of Frederic, Elector of Brandenburg, he had four sons and two daughters—Albert, who succeeded him, but died the same year without issue; John, who died in the life-time of his father; Magnus, who succeeded Albert; Balthazar, Bishop of Schwerin; Anne, who died without issue; and Elizabeth, Abbess of Ribnitz.

Duke Magnus, who was a wise and liberal prince, left at his death three sons, Eric, Henry, and Albert, called the Handsome, who governed in conjunction; but the first was so devoted to literary pursuits that he took little part in the affairs of state, which were left almost exclusively to the management of Henry, denominated, and justly, the Pacific, and Father of his People.

At this time the light of the reformation, kindled by Luther, broke forth in Germany; but though Henry of Mecklenburg favoured the new doc-

trines upon that conviction which was the result of close and serious investigation, he adopted no rigorous measures towards his subjects, who still adhered to the ancient religion; nor did he hold out any allurements to induce them to follow his example. His whole conduct was regulated by the exalted principles of free inquiry and toleration; on which account he refused to become a party in the Protestant league of Smalcald, which he considered as tending rather to foment political intrigues than to promote the interests of truth and charity.

Duke Albert, the brother of Henry of Mecklenburg, was of a very different character, which he evinced by taking the part of Christiern the Second, when that monarch was deprived of the throne of Denmark for his tyranny. On this occasion, Albert commanded an expedition fitted out from Lubeck; but though he succeeded in capturing Copenhagen, where his duchess was delivered of a son, he was so closely besieged by Christiern the Third, as to be obliged to capitulate on humiliating terms. This Duke Albert died in 1547, leaving five sons and a daughter—John-Albert, Ulric, afterwards Bishop of Schwerin, George, Christopher, Bishop of Ratseburg, Charles, who succeeded the last mentioned, and Anne, the wife of the Duke of Courland.

Henry the Pacific, Duke of Mecklenburg, died in 1552, with the blessings of all his subjects, both Catholic and Protestant. He was three times mar-

ried; first to Ursula, daughter of John, Elector of Brandenburg, by whom he had one son and two daughters. Magnus, the son, became Bishop of Schwerin; and having embraced the Lutheran religion, married a daughter of the King of Denmark, but died without issue before his father. The eldest daughter, Sophia, married Ernest of Zell, Duke of Lunenburg; and the second, Ursula, died single, and Abbess of Ribnitz. By his second wife, Eleanor, daughter of Philip, Elector Palatine, Henry had a son, Philip, who was deprived of the succession on account of the defect of his understanding; and two daughters, one married to Henry, Duke of Munsterburg, and the other to Frederic, the Duke of Lignitz. The third wife of Henry the Pacific was Ursula, daughter of the Duke of Saxe Lunenburgh, by whom he had no children.

In consequence of the mental imbecility of Philip, the son of Duke Henry, the government of Mecklenburg devolved upon John-Albert, the eldest son of Albert the handsome, and Ulric, Bishop of Schwerin. These princes were both men of great merit; and being zealously disposed to further the interests of learning and religion, they applied with diligence to the institution of schools, and the reformation of the University of Rostock, the revenues of which had been sadly deteriorated. Besides attending to these important objects, and correcting a number of abuses that had been suffered to re-

main in the ecclesiastical establishment, the two dukes composed a body of excellent laws, which would have rendered the people happy under their administration, had it not been for an unfortunate family dispute. Ulric, on marrying the widow of Magnus, Bishop of Schwerin, demanded of his brother an enlargement of territory, which John-Albert rejected with some degree of harshness. This refusal produced warm disputes, which were inflamed by some of the neighbouring princes, who, taking part with Ulric, urged him to invade his brother's dominions. In this exigency, John finding himself unable to cope with the confederacy formed against him, submitted the matters in litigation to the decision of arbitrators, who awarded that Ulric should have a moiety of the territories; and that, besides the undivided revenues of the bishopric of Schwerin, he should have half the personal property that had been left by his uncle.

John-Albert, who died in 1576, married Sophia, daughter of Albert, Duke of Prussia, by whom he had three sons—John, who succeeded him, Albert, who died an infant, and Sigismund-Augustus, who married a daughter of the Duke of Pomerania, but died before his father, without issue. Ulric, the brother and colleague of John, had a daughter, Sophia, who married Frederic, King of Denmark, which monarch behaved with the most filial regard to his father-in-law, particularly in subjugating the

city of Rostock, when it endeavoured to become independent of the House of Mecklenburg.

Ulric, who, on account of his age and wisdom, obtained the epithet of the German Nestor, died without any other issue than one daughter, in his seventy-fifth year, beloved by his subjects, and esteemed by the neighbouring states. He had nominally, as his coadjutor in the government, John, the son of John-Albert; but being disordered both in mind and understanding, he took no part in the administration, and died by his own hand in 1592. This prince married Sophia, daughter of Albert, Duke of Holstein, by whom he had two sons, Adolphus-Frederic and John-Albert, who succeeded to the government in consequence of the failure of male issue on the part of Duke Ulric. The eldest of these princes had for his portion the duchy of Schwerin, and the other that of Gustrow.

The Duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin married first Anna-Maria, daughter of Enno, Prince of East Friesland; secondly, Mary-Catherine, daughter of Ernest, Duke of Brunswick. By his first wife he had Christian, his eldest son, and successor in the duchy of Schwerin, Charles, John-George, and Gustavus-Rodolphus, with two daughters, Sophia-Agnes and Anna-Maria.

By his second wife he had Frederic, who succeeded him in the duchy of Grabow; and five daughters, Juliana, Sibilla, Christina, Mary-Eliza-

beth, and Anna-Sophia. What is very remarkable in the history of this prince is, that though he died at the extraordinary age of ninety, his duchess was delivered seven months afterwards of a daughter, to whom he had eventually bequeathed the district of Strelitz.

John-Albert, the brother of Adolphus-Frederic, Duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, married first Margaret-Elizabeth, daughter of the Bishop of Ratseburg; secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of Maurice, Landgrave of Hesse; and, lastly, Leonora-Mary, daughter of Christian, Prince of Anhalt Dernburg. By the first of these princesses he had two sons, who died infants, and two daughters, Sophia-Elizabeth, who married Augustus, Duke of Wolfenbuttle, and Christina-Margaret, who married Francis-Albert, Duke of Saxe Lunenburg. By his second wife Duke John-Albert had no issue; but his last brought him a son, Gustavus-Adolphus, and a daughter, named Anna-Sophia.

In the destructive war occasioned by the elevation of Frederic, the Elector Palatine, to the throne of Bohemia, the Dukes of Mecklenburg, Adolphus-Frederic, and John-Albert, took so decided a part, jointly with the other Protestant princes, as to be put under the ban of the empire, their dominions being given to the imperial general Wallenstein, who assumed the entire sovereignty, while the lawful princes in exile suffered great hardships, as

well as their people. In this distress, Providence raised up a deliverer for the oppressed in the person of Gustavus-Adolphus of Sweden, who passed over into Germany, and restored the Dukes of Mecklenburg to the territories of which they had been so long dispossessed. But the fall of the brave Gustavus at the battle of Lutzen greatly dispirited the Protestants of Germany, and the flames of war again spread desolation throughout Mecklenburg; in which state of his country Duke John-Albert died, in the forty-fifth year of his age, leaving an infant son only three years old. On this event, Duke Adolphus-Frederic, being fearful that the young prince would be educated in the Romish faith, laid claim to the guardianship of him; which was contested by the mother, who appealed to the emperor, by whom her right to the sole care of the child was affirmed. This, however, did not satisfy the uncle, who carried off the young Gustavus by force, and caused him to be brought up in the Protestant religion. At length, after inexpressible calamities, a principal share of which fell to the lot of the people of Mecklenburg, the treaty of Westphalia put an end to the war, and the Protestant states obtained additional securities for their independence and religion.

The first care of Duke Adolphus-Frederic, on regaining possession of his estates, was to ameliorate

the condition of his subjects by restoring agriculture, and encouraging manufactures.

In 1647 he gave his daughter Anna-Maria in marriage to Augustus, Duke of Weissenfels; and in 1650 his other daughter, Sophia-Agnes, was contracted to Augustus, Margrave of Brandenburg Bayrent; but the bridegroom dying before the espousals, that amiable princess renounced the world, and devoted herself to a religious life. The same year, Christian, the eldest son of the duke, married his cousin Christina-Margaretta, widow of the Duke of Saxe-Lunenburg, who fell in the wars between the Swedes and Imperialists.

But the paternal solicitude of the venerable Adolphus-Frederic was not confined to his own children and subjects, for, notwithstanding his extraordinary age, he paid such attention to the concerns of his nephew Gustavus-Adolphus, Duke of Mecklenburg Gustrow, that when the young prince arrived at maturity, he found himself in possession of an ample revenue and a most flourishing estate.

In 1658 died Adolphus-Frederic, whose life, though chequered by numerous misfortunes, manifested an equal portion of virtues, which were rewarded by a patriarchal longevity that enabled him to heal the wounds inflicted upon his country, and to leave it in a state of tranquil prosperity.

His successor Christian was the reverse of his

father in every respect, being wild, extravagant, and capricious, to the extreme of folly.

In his person he was uncommonly handsome, and he had besides the most agreeable manner, with an abundance of wit. But these accomplishments were debased by the grossest licentiousness, and the total want of religious principle. His wife, who loved him passionately, became at last exasperated by his abandoned conduct; while he, on the other hand, instead of concealing his infidelity, made an open boast of it, and added cruelty to neglect. At length the nobility, disgusted with his behaviour, deserted the court, and even refused to pay the customary taxes. The duke, therefore, finding himself abandoned, and despised in his own country, resolved to seek relief for his perturbed mind in foreign parts; accordingly, having nominated a council of regency, he proceeded to Paris, thinking that the gaieties of that voluptuous court would dissipate his anxieties. Soon after his arrival in France, he became enamoured with the widow of the Duke de Chatillon, and sister to Marshal Montmorenci. The lady, though gratified with his attentions, was too proud to be his mistress; and as he was already married, an insuperable bar appeared to lie in the way of his inclinations. There was only one method of getting over this obstacle, and that was by an abjuration of the Protestant faith. It may easily be supposed that this expedient did not cost

much sacrifice on the part of one who had never made religion the rule of his actions. Christian, in short, signified his desire to be admitted into the bosom of the church of Rome to the Cardinal Nuncio, who, without troubling himself about the motives of the conversion, imparted the wish of the duke to his holiness, who gave directions for the baptism, which was performed with great ceremony in the presence of Lewis the Fourteenth, who stood godfather on the occasion, and gave his own name to the new convert. Shortly after this he married the Duchess of Chatillon, by virtue of a papal dispensation; but such a union could not be productive of happiness. The habits of the duke were as libertine as ever, for his principles had undergone no change; and the duchess, who had been flattered by his apostasy, could not brook his infidelity. Quarrels ensued, in which the friends of the lady took part against the husband, who quitted France abruptly, to seek undisturbed pleasure at Rome, where he formed an acquaintance with the famous Jesuit Athanasius Kircher; thus endeavouring to procure that mental remedy which mere philosophy cannot supply. After leading a wandering life about Italy, his thoughts turned towards home; but from thence he was shut out, as much by his own fears as by the resolution of the family. In this state of exile he settled at the Hague, where he died in the sixty-

ninth year of his age, in 1692, without leaving any legitimate issue.

His brother, Frederic-William, Duke of Mecklenburg Grabow, had been dead four years, leaving three sons, Frederic-William, Charles-Leopold, Christian-Lewis, and a daughter, Sophia-Louisa.

The eldest of these princes, on the death of his uncle, claimed the dukedom; but his title being disputed by Adolphus-Frederic of Strelitz, the posthumous brother of Christian, the affair was referred to the Elector of Brandenburg, who gave his award in favour of the nephew.

This difference had hardly been settled before another arose, occasioned by the death of Gustavus-Adolphus, Duke of Gustrow, without male issue; in consequence of which the Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz laid claim to the succession, on the ground of proximity of blood; but he was opposed by the Duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, whose claim rested upon priority of descent.

The widow of Gustavus-Adolphus, the last Duke of Gustrow, survived her husband several years; and the inscription on her coffin is sufficiently curious for insertion in this place.

"Here lieth a princess, most remarkable for longevity, Magdalena-Sibylla, Duchess of Mecklenburg, heiress of Norway, Duchess of Sleswick, Holstein, Stormar, and Ditmarsh, Countess of Oldenburg and Dalmenhorst, &c. who, to the great

joy of the most illustrious house of Gottorp, was born anno 1631, the fourteenth of November; and for the welfare of the country of Mecklenburg was married the twenty-eighth of November, 1654, to his serene highness Gustavus-Adolphus, Duke of Mecklenburg Gustrow, Prince of Wenden, &c. Happily for the state, she resided sixty-five years in Gustrow, and at length exchanged this life for a better, the twenty-second of September, 1719, in the twenty-fourth year of her widowhood, and the eighty-eighth year of her age, after having given the highest proofs of her faith, piety, and princely benignity. Her remains will flourish in the mansions of death, and her name will be for ever loved and revered among mankind."

The dispute relative to the duchy of Gustrow ran so high, that the litigants had recourse to arms for the decision of their pretensions; and the Duke of Strelitz, being weaker than his opponent, called in the Swedes to his assistance, which justly exciting th apprehensions of the emperor, he lost no time in adopting measures for preserving the peace of Germany. An assembly of the princes of Lower Saxony was immediately convened, in which it was resolved to put the disputed duchy under sequestration till an amicable adjustment of the existing claims should be accomplished. To this decision the Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz readily agreed, as well as his competitor; but unfortunately the Swedes had already

obtained a footing in the country, which they refused to quit, and they actually kept possession of all the fortresses till the year 1701, when the business, after four years delay, was finally settled. The arbitrators to whom the subject in dispute was referred met at Hamburg, where they awarded that Duke Frederic-William should enjoy the principality of Gustrow with the duchy of Schwerin; and that Adolphus-Frederic, besides his dukedom of Strelitz, should hold the principality of Ratzeburg, the lordship of Stargard, and the commanderies of Mirow and Nemero, with a yearly sum of nine thousand rix-dollars out of the Boitzenburg toll.

This adjudication, being acceded to by both parties, received the imperial confirmation, at which time also the right of primogeniture and the lineal succession of both houses were precisely determined, for the prevention of future disputes. Such was the compact by which this principality became divided into the two branches of Schwerin and Strelitz, though the title remained the same in both, being that of Duke of Mecklenburg, Prince of Wenden, Schwerin, and Ratzeburg, Count of Schwerin, and the country of Rostock, and Lord of Stargard.

Duke Frederic-William of Schwerin married in 1704 Sophia-Charlotte, daughter of the landgrave of Hesse Cassel; but he had no children, and being

of an infirm constitution, which was farther weakened by sorrow for the sufferings of his subjects in the wars that ravaged Germany, he fell into a consumption, and died at Mentz in 1713, aged thirty-nine.

His brother, Charles-Leopold, married Sophia-Hedwiga, daughter of Henry-Casimir-Nassau, hereditary Stadtholder of West Friesland, from whom he was soon afterwards publicly divorced. He next married Catherine, daughter of the Czar John, elder brother of Peter the Great of Russia, a union that was attended with very extraordinary circumstances. On the death of Peter the Second, the Russian nobility raised to the vacant throne Anne-Ivanowna, Duchess of Courland, the younger sister of the Duchess of Mecklenburg, whose daughter, however, and the only child she had, was adopted by the empress as her successor.

In 1739 the Czarina gave her niece in marriage to Anthony-Ulric, Prince of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttle, by whom she had a son named Iwan, who was only two months old at the death of his aunt, when he was immediately proclaimed emperor; and soon after, his mother, the grand-duchess, assumed the title of regent. Her government was wise and moderate; but nothing could remove the prejudices which the Russians had against German connexions. A conspiracy was formed in favour of the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Peter the

Great; and so well was it contrived, that the grand-duchess, her husband, and son, were arrested without noise or opposition, and sent off to Riga, where they remained under close confinement, nor could the courts of Vienna and Berlin procure their release.

On the death of the unfortunate Charles-Leopold in 1747, without any surviving issue, the full possession of his estates came to his brother, Christian-Lewis, who died in 1756, and was succeeded by his son, Duke Frederic, whose mother was Gustava, of the family of Strelitz. This prince married Louisa-Frederica, daughter of Duke Frederic-Lewis, hereditary Prince of Wurtenburg Stutgard, and of Princess Henrietta-Maria of Brandenburg Suedt, by whom he had no children; but his brother Lewis, who married Charlotte-Sophia, daughter of Francis-Josiah, Duke of Saxe Saalfeld, had one son and one daughter.

Adolphus-Frederic the Second, Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, who died in 1708, was thrice married; first to Mary, daughter of the last Duke of Gustrow, by whom he had a son, who succeeded him in his dominions; and a daughter, named Gustava-Carolina, who became the wife of Christian Lewis, administrator of the Duchy of Schwerin, and the successor of his brother Charles-Leopold. The second wife of Duke Adolphus-Frederic was Johanna, widow of Frederic, Duke of Saxe Gotha, who brought him no issue; but by his third wife,

Christina-Amelia-Antonia, daughter of the Prince of Schwartzburg Sanderhausen, he had a daughter, who died an infant, and a son, Charles-Lewis-Frederic.

Adolphus-Frederic the Third married in 1709 Dorothy-Sophia, daughter of John-Adolphus, Duke of Holstein-Ploen, by whom he had no issue; and at his death, in 1752, the title and estates devolved to his nephew, Adolphus-Frederic, the son of Lewis-Frederic, Duke of Mirow.

Having thus traced the genealogical history of the serene house of Mecklenburg to the period of its near alliance with Great Britain, the heraldic narrative may properly close with a display of its armorial bearings.

The shield is party per pale, two bends divided into six fields, exclusive of an escutcheon. The first of these is topaz, a buffalo's head gardant ruby, crowned with horns pearl, with a ring of the same through its nostrils, for Mecklenburg. The second is sapphire, a griffin topaz for Wenden. The third, party per fesse barry of two sapphire, with a griffin pearl, and a lozenge amethyst. Both these are supposed to be the arms of Rostock. The escutcheon is party per fesse, and ruby topaz, for the county of Schwerin. The fourth is ruby, a cross wavy pearl, for the principality of Ratzeburg. The fifth, ruby, an arm-cloathed pearl, and bound with a ribband of the same, issuing

from a cloud, and holding up a ring topaz, with a stone infixed, for the lordship of Stargard. The sixth is topaz, a buffalo's head, diamond, with a crown topaz, and horns pearl, a tongue panting, and placed oblique; the allusion of which is conjectural.

The crest is composed of five helmets open and crowned: the first, for Mecklenburg, is surmounted with five pales, sharp-pointed, and joined towards the bottom: the first azure, the second or, the third gules, the fourth argent, the fifth sable, surmounted with a buffalo's head sable, crowned gules, horned argent, contournè, and placed in profile: behind the head is a peacock's tail, fastened towards the bottom to the upper part of the pales. The second, for Wenden, surmounted with two wings, the one azure, and the other or. The third, for Stargard, surmounted with two buffalo's horns, couped with gules and or. The fourth, for Schwerin, surmounted with a half griffin. The fifth, for Ratzeburg, surmounted with seven lances, argent, to which are fastened towards the points the same number of small banners, also argent. The mantles are of all colours and metals. The supporters are on the right a buffalo, on the left a griffin.

CHAPTER II.

Marriage of Duke Charles-Lewis-Frederic.—Settles at Mirow.—Character of the Duchess.—Care of her Children.—Mr. Gentzmer.—Mademoiselle Seltzer.—Death of the Duke.—Removal of the Family to Strelitz.—Madame de Grabow.—Plan of Education.—Progress of the Princess Charlotte.—Family Economy.—Picture of the Court.—Description of the Palace.—Sketches of Character.—Distresses of Mecklenburg.—Letter to the King of Prussia.—Its Effects.—Death of King George the Second.

CHARLES-LEWIS-FREDERIC, the younger son of Adolphus-Frederic, the second Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, was only three months old at the death of his father, who settled upon him the commanderies of Mirow and Nemerow, the revenues of which would have accumulated considerably during his minority, had it not been for the miseries inflicted upon the whole principality during the wars which dévastated Germany at the beginning of the last century. The young duke completed his education at the university of Gripswald in Pomerania, after which he entered into the imperial service; but though he attained the rank of a general, no opportunities offered for the display of his military talents. At the age of twenty-five, he married the

Princess Albertina-Elizabeth, daughter of Ernest-Frederic, Duke of Saxe Hildburghausen; which union, as it was founded on mutual affection, never suffered from any caprice.

Their serene highnesses, though in the bloom of life, immediately fixed their residence at the ducal palace of Mirow, where the little court which they formed contributed materially to the benefit of the inhabitants of the town, who about three years before had suffered severely by a most dreadful conflagration. In a short time, however, the place revived with an elegance which left little room to lament the catastrophe that had occurred; and the people were rendered happy by the encouragement given to industry, and the example of virtue daily set before them in the family of their illustrious protectors.

The first fruit of this union was a daughter, named Christina-Sophia-Albertina, born the sixth of December, 1735. The next was a son, born May the fifth, 1738, and to whom, as the heir to the ducal honours of Mecklenburg Strelitz, was given by his uncle the name of Adolphus-Frederic. On the tenth of October, 1741, the duchess was delivered of a second son, named Charles-Lewis-Frederic, after his father; and on the twenty-seventh of August, the year following, was born another son, christened Ernest-Gottlob-Albert. On the sixteenth of May, 1744, her serene highness

was delivered of a second daughter, named SOPHIA-CHARLOTTE; and on the sixteenth of August, 1748, of a son, named George-Augustus.

All the children were born at Mirow, the palace of which bore a near resemblance to the castellated mansions of our old English nobility, when surrounded by a tenantry, whose succession went on as regularly in the same lineage as that of the house under which they held their tenures.

Though the duke was of a very delicate constitution, and often suffered severely from pulmonic complaints, he exerted himself very much in the improvement of his estates, and attending to the education of his children. The duchess bore an active part in these labours; and as no one knew better how to rear the tender thought into a proper disposition for knowledge, no one was better qualified to render tuition useful by directing its application to the great purposes of life. To a strong and comprehensive mind, enriched with the elegant accomplishments befitting her high birth and station, she added the winning graces of a Christian temper, which so uniformly shone through all her actions as to give a most persuasive effect to her instructions. Firmly grounded in religious principles, which she had thoroughly studied and well understood, the duchess made it her chief care to instil into the minds of her offspring those sacred truths, the efficacious influence of which

she knew, from her own experience, would alone render power safe, and wealth a blessing. In these sentiments, the duke, her husband, entirely coincided; and on that account all the children enjoyed a domestic education, the principal direction of which was committed to the Reverend Mr. Gentzmer, a Lutheran divine of considerable talents, and most agreeable manners, being religious without bigotry, and learned without pedantry. This respectable man, who was a native of *Welsickendorff*, in the *Marck* of *Brandenburg*, added to his scholastic qualifications an extensive knowledge of mathematics, natural philosophy, botany, and mineralogy: in all which branches of science his young pupils, first at Mirow, and afterwards at Strelitz, profited much from his instructions. How well he discharged his duty in this important trust was evinced in the classical attainments of the hereditary prince, who, at the age of fifteen, was chosen rector of the university of Gripswald, before which learned body he delivered a Latin oration of his own composition, in a style of nervous eloquence, and modesty of expression, suited to the dignity of the place, and the juvenility of the speaker.

Though the care of the two princesses came more immediately within the charge of the duchess, she did not leave even the instruction of their brothers to the sole management of the preceptor, whatever might be the confidence which she placed

in his integrity and diligence. Aware that parental encouragement gives life to the formal rules of tuition, this accomplished woman never failed to bestow praise for improvement, by pointing out the moral advantages it would produce, and shewing the necessity of regulating every action of life in subservience to this great principle of duty.

The consequences of this admirable system were displayed in the harmony that reigned throughout the family, and particularly in the sincere affection which cemented the children to each other, the stedfastness of their filial piety, and the amenity of their deportment to all around them.

In the education of the princesses, the duchess was relieved from any intense solicitude by the uncommon merits and sedulous attentions of their governess, Mademoiselle Seltzer, a lady of noble birth in the country of Wirtemburg, whose early attachment to her serene highness had induced her to settle at Mirow immediately after the marriage. She was a most accomplished woman, endowed with talents of a superior order, which were rendered still more attractive by an ardent piety and a gentleness of disposition, that eminently qualified her to mould the infant mind, and lead it on in the path of knowledge to the practice of every social virtue. Mademoiselle Seltzer was of the same age with the duchess; and the friendship that had been contracted in their youth lasted through life with so sincere an

affection on both sides, that the children almost regarded their amiable instructor in the light of a second parent.

This connexion became, if possible, still closer at the death of the duke in 1751; and though that event was quickly followed by a removal of the family from Mirow to Strelitz, where of course much outward ceremony was observed, and splendour kept up, agreeable to the regimen of the German courts, the friendship already formed suffered no abatement. The method of education previously adopted was also continued without any material alteration; and the same persons to whom that charge had been confided remained in full possession of the trust, with little other difference than that of increased emolument.

On the removal of the family to Strelitz, however, the establishment was necessarily enlarged; and among the rest, a new governante was engaged to complete the education of the two princesses, the elder of whom was now in her seventeenth, and the younger in her eighth year.

Madame de Grabow, the lady employed in this honourable service, was the daughter of a nobleman of the name of Kettemburg, who was president of the high court of Gustrow, and minister from his serene highness the Duke of Mecklenburg to the court of Vienna. Thither he was accompanied by his daughter, who, in consequence, had abun-

dant opportunities of learning the manners of the court, as she spent a great part of her youth in the capital, where she acquired every elegant accomplishment. She understood Latin well, spoke Italian and French with great fluency, while of her own language she had a complete command, and wrote in it with elegance, as appeared in several poetical pieces, which procured her the title of the German Sappho. She was besides accurately read in ancient and modern history; to which she added a thorough knowledge of geography and chronology.

With these attainments, Madame de Grabow possessed an excellent taste and judgment, so that she could at once point out the beauties or defects of literary composition; while with no less discrimination she illustrated the justness of the reasoning, or detected the weakness of the sophistry. Uniting a high sense of honour to a most conciliating address, she knew how to blend authority with respect; and being in perfectly independent circumstances, she stood in no need of submitting to any regulations which might be at variance with her own ideas of tuition. But nothing of the kind was to be apprehended in a family constituted like that at Strelitz, and to which Madame de Grabow was far from being a stranger, having long enjoyed the friendship of Mademoiselle Seltzer, and the esteem of the excellent duchess. She was at this time a

widow of about forty-five, and possessed of a very handsome fortune derived from her father, and the will of her husband, who, as the assessor of the high court of Gustrow, had realized a considerable estate. Being thus unincumbered, she the more readily accepted the invitation of the duchess dowager, as presenting a sphere of employment the most suitable that could be for one of her active turn of mind, and who had, during a principal part of her life, resided within the precincts of a court.

Having settled her affairs, and disposed of her house at Gustrow, which was her native place, Madame de Grabow became a resident in the palace of Strelitz, where she continued above seven years to enjoy the utmost confidence and respect, living on terms of friendship with the duchess, and regarded by all the children with affection. The labour of instruction was lightened by the pains that had already been taken, and it was rendered pleasant by the ductility of disposition upon which it was employed. As the elder princess wanted little more assistance in the prosecution of her studies than what could be communicated in occasional discourse, the attention of Madame de Grabow may almost be said to have been wholly directed to the improvement of the Princess Charlotte, whose opening powers of mind expanded more vigorously by the intellectual advance of her sister.

The plan of education was strictly systematic in

an exact distribution of the different branches of knowledge, and a scrupulous economy of time for the several objects of study, work, and amusement.

Thus the most important concern of human life went on in perfect smoothness, every new acquisition in learning serving to confirm and illustrate that which preceded it; while the mind became stored without confusion, and disciplined without weariness.

Under so able a teacher as Madame de Grabow, the princess could not fail to be well grounded in the grammatical construction of her native language, and to have her taste formed by an acquaintance with the most elegant writers, who had at that time enriched German literature by their publications. This study of good authors was rendered permanently beneficial by abstracts of their arguments, observations on their style of composition, and occasional attempts at imitation.

In due course the French and Italian followed, with the polite literature of each language; but of the English, Madame de Grabow had not the slightest knowledge, which indeed was not to be wondered, considering how little even the German was then understood in this country, though it was the native tongue of the reigning monarch.

The progress of the young pupil reflected credit on the talents and diligence of the teacher, who enjoyed the best reward in the growing excellence

of the character that was forming under her management, which pleasure she participated with the worthy Mr. Gentzmer, whose instructions were continued at Strelitz till the junior branches stood no longer in need of his assistance; and then he was promoted to the rectory of Stargard.

The memory of the princess was not less retentive than her perception was acute. She learnt rules, attended to explanations; and without any other impulse than that of an active desire of knowledge, exercised herself in the application of the principles which she had acquired. Thus, in reading history, to which she was particularly attached, maps were always consulted as often as any doubt arose respecting the position of places mentioned in the narrative; and in like manner dates were carefully compared, by reference to the proper authorities, in order to ascertain the exact period when the events that interested attention actually occurred.

Madame de Grabow was herself well skilled in the construction of maps, which she drew with equal accuracy and elegance. From her the princess imbibed a similar taste, and thus laid the foundation of that extensive knowledge in geography which distinguished her through life. She was naturally of an inquisitive turn of mind, which was properly directed by her enlightened teacher into the means of quickening the judgment, and storing the memory. Thus, the business of instruction was relieved

from fatigue, and became shortened by constant inquiry and reciprocal confidence. The same ease and freedom distinguished the intercourse between the princess and her other instructors, particularly M. Gentzmer, for whom she entertained a tender respect. That excellent man took as much delight in his pupil, whose inquiries in his favourite pursuits of natural history were extremely flattering, and which he always answered in a manner that served to keep alive the curiosity which it gratified. From him the princess acquired an elementary knowledge of the general principles of science, when her judgment became sufficiently strong to comprehend the ideas of those subjects. The indefatigable ardour of M. Gentzmer for mineralogical researches could not escape the observation of one who had known him from her infancy, and daily witnessed his peculiar habits. His collection of fossils was one of the finest even in Germany; and he had great pleasure in exhibiting and discoursing upon these natural curiosities.

The young princess took great pleasure in listening to the explications of her tutor, and in the inspection of his cabinet. This circumstance is here mentioned as marking the origin of that predilection for the study of natural history, and particularly mineralogy, which continued to distinguish the illustrious pupil of M. Gentzmer uniformly through life, and of which she gave a striking proof in her

patronage of M. de Luc, the late venerable father of geological science in England.

While the solid and more immediately useful parts of learning were thus enriching the mind in subservience to the permanent principles of natural and revealed religion, the lighter ornaments of the sex were neither neglected nor superficially regarded.

Drawing, music, and dancing, had their respective teachers, and allotted portions of time. The dance was then, as it still continues to be, a favourite amusement throughout Germany, on which account it constitutes, together with music, a leading feature in the education of both sexes. The two princesses of Strelitz were very fond of this national diversion, in which they shone with remarkable grace; as they also did in vocal and instrumental music. But these requisite embellishments of the female character in elevated life were not suffered to supersede the less brilliant but more substantial qualifications, by which even rank is dignified, and beauty becomes amiable.

The duchess dowager had an utter abhorrence of idleness, which she considered as the source of every evil; and, therefore, while she willingly allowed amusements to diversify the scene, she exacted a strict employment of time in the fulfilment of the duties which each member of the family had to perform. Hence she enforced industry by her

authority, and taught it by her example. As she governed her household at Mirow with the utmost discretion, so she continued to discharge that office at Strelitz with the same punctuality. Without descending from her station to an improper level, she kept an eye upon the different departments of the establishment, and the conduct of the persons to whom they were entrusted. This, however, did not proceed from parsimony, but a sense of duty, and the conviction that inattention to little things is the parent of great disorder. Every thing was conducted with uniformity; and though the etiquette of a court was regularly kept up, it was observed with as much ease as the order of a private family.

The morning hours were devoted to study and needle-work, lace-making and embroidery, at which the princesses and their ladies were remarkably expert: then, if the weather permitted, a short excursion took place round the park; and, on their return, the party dressed for dinner, which was always served up at one o'clock in public, and that with much state formality. Coffee followed, after which the company dispersed to pursue such amusements as suited their inclinations; but, in general, dancing and cards filled up the remaining part of the evening till the regular hour of retirement, which was between ten and eleven.

Such was the ordinary mode of living in the palace of Strelitz during the time of the duchess dowager,

and so it continued to be when her son returned from his travels, and took upon himself the management of his hereditary estates. Nothing, in fact, could be more amiable and praiseworthy than the conduct of this prince; for, instead of indulging that spirit of extravagance and innovation on attaining maturity, which too often plunges young men of rank in inextricable difficulties, he carefully adhered to the prudent plan laid down by his excellent parent, by whose advice and direction he cheerfully abided as long as she lived. Thus, the most complete unity prevailed within the palace, and throughout the principality, the whole of which had the appearance of one family. Of this pleasing scene, which realized the picture of a perfect court, drawn by the admirable Fenelon, an eye witness has left the following sketch:

"They have no ambition here, but that of serving their prince and country: they idle not away their time, but act with the utmost diligence in their respective departments: they behave with a just dignity and decorum, avoiding the extremes of meanness and pride: they are content with their paternal fortunes, which set them above the inordinate desire of riches: they are open and sincere, which renders them lovers of truth: they have no occasion to cringe to a prince whose aversion is flattery: they have the highest ideas of honour; and, consequently, are true to their engagements: they

have an inviolable regard for all civil duties: they have a love for their prince on account of his virtues, and esteem him for his capacity: to conclude, it may be truly said, that, instead of encouraging the ridicule of virtue, this court is a pattern of morality and religion, a school of probity and honour, a seminary of politeness, and, in fine, the seat of every social virtue. This is no exaggeration, but a fair portrait. The court of Strelitz, indeed, is not very numerous, but it is one of the most regular and most agreeable of any in the whole empire. No private family is governed with more order; and, perhaps, no prince is served by abler officers, and with greater diligence and affection. Many of the gentlemen employed in the civil department would do honour to the first court in Europe for their integrity and abilities." (Dr. Nugent's Travels in Germany, vol. I. p. 344.)

The description of the ducal residence, as given by the same accurate writer, may not be unsuitable in this place.

"In the year 1712, Adolphus-Frederic, Duke of Strelitz, and his whole family, narrowly escaped perishing in a great fire, which broke out in the night, and burned down the old palace, with all its costly furniture and valuable effects. In consequence of this misfortune, his serene highness began to erect a sumptuous palace in 1726, about two English miles from the town of Strelitz, in a very

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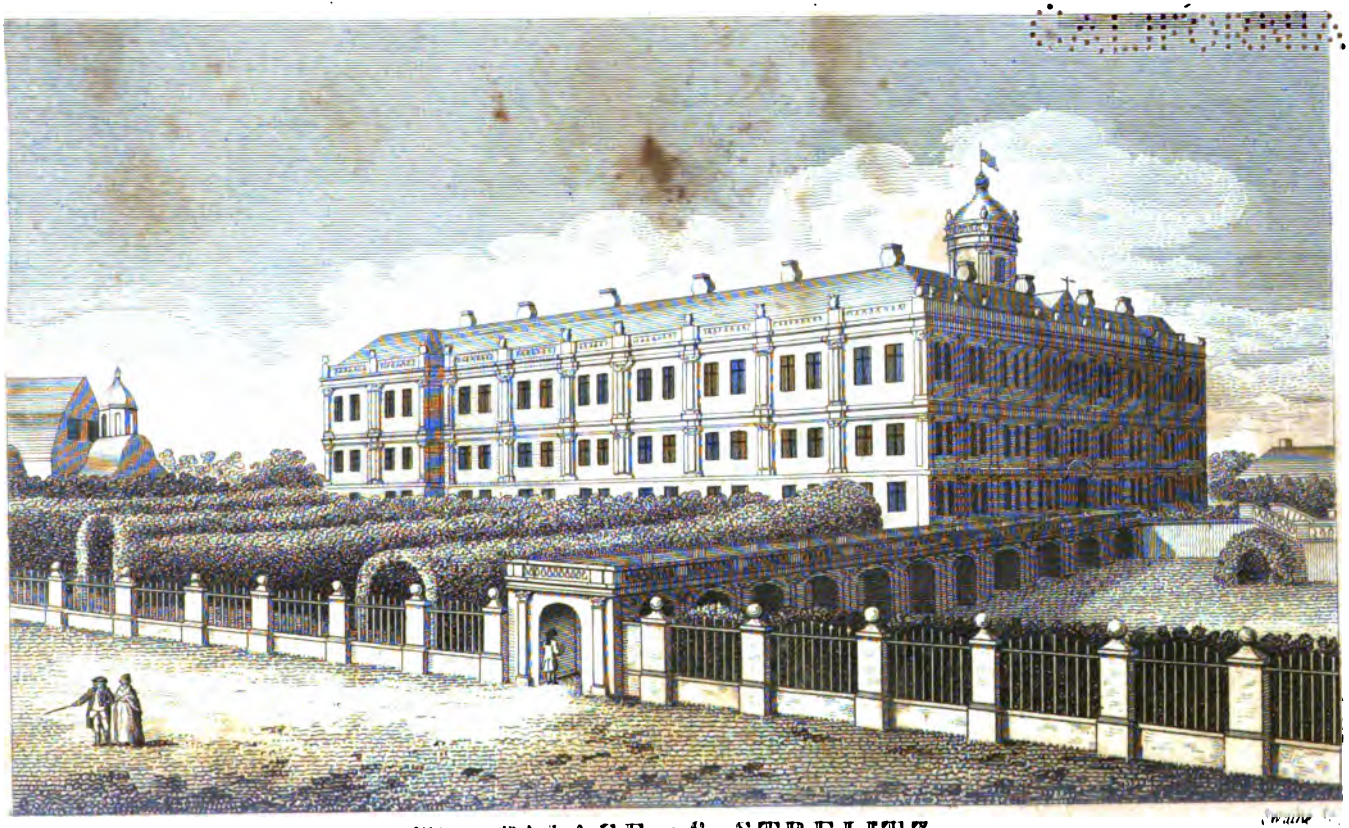

The PALACE of STRELITZ.

pleasant situation, at a place called Glieneke, which before was a hunting seat. In 1733, he thought proper to found a new town adjoining to the palace, and ordered it to be called by the name of New Strelitz. This new town is laid out in a most regular manner, in the form of a star; the centre is a spacious market place; and from thence a number of streets branch out in straight lines; the chief one leads to the palace, and is called Palace Street; the next to the water side, where a pleasant lake attracts the eye. The buildings in these two streets are elegant and commodious; and in some of the others there are handsome houses. The duke gives great encouragement to builders, so that by this means, and the number of nobility who come to live near the court, the town enlarges every day: hence it is imagined that the buildings will, in time, reach to old Strelitz, and both together constitute one city. The air of this new town is clear and wholesome, and the water also of a salubrious quality.

" The situation of the palace is on a rising ground and dry soil, with a deer park in front, and a spacious garden with a beautiful lake at the back. It is a quadrangular pile, built chiefly of stone, three stories high, and the architecture extremely light and elegant. Two large wings project from the main body in a straight line, between which is a spacious area or court. The wings are sixty feet each in length, and the main body one hundred and

twenty. The court chapel is in the right wing, and in the left is the grand saloon. The principal staircase is large and light, leading to a handsome hall, where the duke commonly dines. Contiguous to this hall, on the right hand, are two rooms, from whence you pass to the presence chamber and his highness's private apartments. The presence chamber is extremely beautiful, being of a due proportion, and the furniture of the highest contrivance and elegance: in the middle is a rich chair of state, intended, as I suppose, for public ceremonies. On the other side of the hall are several good rooms, which lead to a kind of gallery, from whence you advance to the grand saloon, which is truly magnificent, decorated with stucco, gilding, and every other embellishment. It is lofty and spacious, about sixty feet in length and forty in breadth, with a gallery for the music. This grand room is used only for festivals, when there are balls and assemblies; and then it is customary for the duke and the whole court to dine and sup there. The next floor is assigned for her serene highness's apartments, as well as those for the duke's brothers when they come to Strelitz, and those belonging to the dames de cour, or maids of honour. On the ground floor lodges the marshal of the court, whose apartment is neat and elegant. Proceeding from thence towards the garden, on the left hand, you find the grand apartments, which are absolutely superb. The ceiling

consists of compartments curiously wrought in stucco; the sides enriched with pictures, glasses, and other ornaments; and the furniture quite new, rich, and well chosen. The chairs are all lined with crimson damask, edged and flowered with gold; and, indeed, the whole is very splendid.

"On the right hand, opposite to these apartments, are several rooms full of curiosities and valuable moveables, but not ranged in proper order. Among other things I beheld with admiration a complete service of Chelsea porcelain, rich and beautiful in fancy beyond expression. I really never saw any Dresden porcelain near so fine: her majesty made a present of this choice collection to the duke her brother—a present worthy of so great a princess. The chapel on this side is beautifully finished, but not crowded with ornaments; the pulpit is over the altar, and round the whole runs a gallery for the duke's household and the nobility; but the part fronting the pulpit is appropriated to his serene highness.

"From the back gate of the palace you descend by a handsome flight of stone steps into the garden, where the eye is immediately presented with a charming landscape. Before you is a beautiful parterre, leading to a double row of trees, which form the grand avenue: this is terminated by a handsome terrace, with a gradual slope to the edge of a spacious lake, on the opposite bank of which you be-

hold a pretty village; and farther on is a vast tract of forest land outstretching the sight. On each side of the grand avenue are groves and alleys, with a variety of labyrinths; and a curious grotto on the right hand, much admired for its shell-work. In this same grand avenue you see several statues, copied from antiques, and extremely well executed. On the right side of the garden is the orangery, consisting of a spacious saloon, elegantly built, and kept in good order. On the left is a kitchen garden with pleasant walks and arbours. Before the palace is the parade, a spacious area, terminating in the deer park. On the left of this parade are some public offices, and, at a small distance, the duke's coach-house and stables."

Such was the palace of Strelitz when Dr. Nugent visited it in 1766, and met with the most gracious reception from the duke and his eldest sister, who lived together on the most affectionate terms. Of the former, the same author says:—"He sets an example of chastity very rare in the present age, never indulging himself in amours or intrigues, or gratifying his passion at the expense of innocence and virtue. This is the more extraordinary," adds the doctor, "as he is in the bloom of life, and not insensible to the charms of beauty. The truth is, he is sincere in his religion, and thinks it the duty of a prince to set a good example to his subjects. On Sundays and festivals he assists at

divine service with the utmost devotion, and all his household imitate so good a pattern. Yet he is quite free from affectation and bigotry, has no prejudice on account of difference of opinion, and is a declared enemy of persecution. But he is no enemy to innocent pleasure; for he is fond of balls and assemblies, where he dances and plays at cards with the ladies, and appears highly delighted with their company. His magnificence is without profuseness, and his entertainments without restraint. His table is open to the nobility of the country, as well as to foreigners of any distinction. Thus he lives like a generous prince, not inaccessible to his subjects, but diffusing his goodness, and delighting in hospitality and beneficence. Yet his finances are managed with the greatest order; and he has the happiness of being assisted by ministers perfectly acquainted with political economy. Possessed of too much sense to value himself merely for his high birth, he is the farthest of all princes from any appearance of vanity. He is possessed of very good natural parts, a quick apprehension, sound judgment, and comprehensive memory. He is master of several languages; the French in particular he speaks with great purity and ease, and he is well versed in the Italian. He uses very few diversions, neither does he seem to take sufficient exercise for his health, seldom going either hunting or shooting, but contenting himself with taking the

air in his chariot. His chief diversion is doing good, in expanding himself in acts of beneficence towards his subjects, whose happiness seems to constitute the sole object of his ambition. They repay him with the utmost gratitude: he is possessed of their love and affection: and never prince and people lived in greater harmony."

The portrait of the elder princess is no less pleasing.

"The duke's sister, Princess Christina, is in her one-and-thirtieth year, tall and genteel in her person, round faced, large blue eyes, and brown complexion. She is extremely well shaped, of an engaging carriage, and a most graceful figure, but a little marked with the small pox. Her constitution is rather delicate; but she is very good tempered, and endowed with such an affability as wins the hearts of all those who have the honour of approaching her person. She speaks good French, and with great fluency. Her countenance is dignified with an air of grandeur suitable to her rank, which she tempers in conversation with a becoming sweetness. Her words express her judgment and sound sense; and good breeding accompanies all her actions. Weaned from the vices of the age, she discovers her high birth only by solid piety and surprising goodness of heart. The improvement of her mind has been ever her chief study; so that, without flattery, I may affirm her to be adorned

with every accomplishment suited to her sex. She reads a good deal, and has lately begun to learn English. In short, her graceful and polite behaviour cannot be expressed: like her brother, she has not the least pride, nor does she affect any pre-eminence, though, besides her birth, highly entitled to it by the lustre of her princely virtues."

One of our old poets has observed, that "A virtuous court a world to virtue draws;" an assertion which is unquestionally true to a much greater extent than is generally imagined, even by those who take the closest and most correct view of the moral effects of great examples.

When the duchess dowager of Mecklenburg was forming the minds of her children, and carefully attending to the manners of her household, she had no prospect of any splendid alliances for her daughters; and it is certain that she neither indulged such ideas herself, nor suffered them to be encouraged in conversation. Totally free from worldly policy, she regulated the whole system of her maternal government by the principle of religious duty, in a pious conformity to the direction of providence. Thus laying her own foundation of happiness in the deepest humility; and feeling the benefit of it in the calm tranquillity of her passions, amidst many severe trials, she was anxious that those in whose welfare she was most tenderly interested should experience the same blessing.

The constant advice, therefore, which she inculcated was to seek felicity in unity of affection, and simplicity of action, which she justly considered as the more expedient for persons in high station, because they are peculiarly exposed to deception and temptation. There was nothing she more dreaded than the influence of that moral pestilence which had already begun to make too great a progress in Germany, through the powerful agency of Frederic, commonly called the Great, of Prussia. But the mere attraction of royalty alone did not give a charm to scepticism, for science and wit were pressed into its service; and this celebrated monarch seemed resolved, like another Julian, to destroy the Christian religion by the fascinating allurement of philosophy.

The Princess of Mecklenburg saw the danger which such an example was likely to produce; and she knew enough of human nature to be convinced that infidelity finds disciples only among those who have never studied, or comprehended the principles of truth. With this persuasion on her mind, she directed all her efforts to counteract the encroaching spirit of licentiousness in principle and practice; and she had the satisfaction of seeing the solid principles of piety, that shone so conspicuously in her own deportment, reflected in the conduct of her children. How stedfastly indeed they were grounded on the basis of religion, the tenour of

their lives gave abundant evidence; but one instance may here be adduced as marking a degree of exaltation in virtuous sentiment not easily paralleled. Prince Charles-Lewis, the second son, on coming of age, visited most of the courts in Germany; and as he was a very handsome young man, gay, and highly accomplished, he became an object of general admiration to the ladies. A princess belonging to one of the first houses in the empire fell violently in love with him; and an overture was made in consequence, without the smallest doubt but that it would be gladly accepted, as the proffered alliance appeared to be too advantageous to be rejected.

The prince, however, did decline it; for though the lady possessed youth, beauty, and every external attraction that might have captivated any other man, and though the family possessed great power, he could not bring himself to unite his fate to one who had expressed light notions on religious subjects.

Here the excellence of the system adopted in the education of this illustrious family became manifest in a brilliant victory over policy and the passions. This was after the mother of the prince had been called to the enjoyment of her eternal reward: but even while she was engaged, and that under very distressing circumstances, in the performance of her maternal duties, she was encouraged by the

confidence which an insight into their opening minds afforded, that her sons would prove honourable, and her daughters virtuous.

This consolation she experienced, when the flames of war, kindled by the King of Prussia, spread desolation over the territories of the minor princes of Germany. The duchy of Mecklenburg felt the tremendous scourge with peculiar severity throughout the whole of that protracted contest, which lasted from 1756 to 1763. Frederic, exasperated against the court of Schwerin for maintaining a strict neutrality while the war was raging between him and the empress queen, did every thing that a proud and vindictive spirit could devise to manifest his resentment. He not only caused his troops to march through the ducal estates, but to take up their quarters in the towns and villages, which they treated as if they were in an enemy's country. The Prussians, by their repeated wanton acts of violence, evidently followed the directions which they had received; or they knew that their conduct would not be displeasing to their master, whose generals, in fact, levied heavy contributions upon the people of Mecklenburg, forced the young men into their armies, and punished them as deserters whenever they endeavoured to make their escape.

The outrages committed under the immediate observation of the Protestant hero, as he was ridiculously termed, could not have been exceeded by

an infuriated soldiery on entering a conquered country. Complaints were useless, for they were disregarded; and resistance on the part of the oppressed peasantry only aggravated the miseries which they suffered.

On one farm alone, these ravagers levied a contribution of four thousand crowns, besides what they took as plunder and forage. Yet all this was moderation when compared with what the poor villagers endured, whose entire stock of provisions was taken away, their furniture converted into fuel, or wantonly destroyed, and themselves with their children left to perish in the depth of winter.

Thus continually exposed to fresh depredations, the people in despair relinquished trade, and even neglected to cultivate their lands. So little indeed was property respected, that the ducal family and the nobility found it necessary to convey their plate and other valuables to Hamburg and Lubec, for security. Even the sacred ornaments and utensils of the churches were removed, or concealed, to prevent their falling into the hands of these rapacious visitors, who were reprcsented in England as fighting for the support of liberty and religion. This, however, was a convenient pretext, of which no one knew better how to take advantage than Frederic the Great, who, in all his public declarations, artfully identified his cause with the Protestant interest, though in his heart he had no more respect for one

church than another. To the principles of genuine liberty, this monarch, with all his boasted parade of free inquiry, was a determined enemy, and it would be a difficult matter to find among his cotemporaries a man of more despotic character. Had Frederic possessed those great qualities to which he set up such high pretensions, and which were conceded to him by the sycophancy and partiality of the times, the presence of his armies in peaceful states would not have been regarded by the inhabitants with the same chill of horror as if the pestilence had entered their dwellings. This, however, was the universal feeling throughout Mecklenburg, especially when the King of Prussia made the whole country a military station, for his own defence against the incursions of the Russians and the Swedes. Allowing the necessity of this occupancy, as a measure justified by the exigency of the case, and the laws of war, no sophistry can devise a palliative for the acts of spoliation perpetrated under the authority of the Prussian commanders, in territories which it was their duty to have protected. But the people of this ill-fated country had most reason to pray for deliverance from their pretended friends, whose exactions, being perpetual, rendered the oppression intolerable, while the evils arising from the inroads of their enemy on the borders were merely a temporary inconvenience.

These calamities, which deepened in horror from

day to day, as the war proceeded, weighed so heavily on the spirits of the afflicted duchess, as to lay the foundation of that disorder which carried her ultimately to the grave. As long as the means afforded, charity was liberally distributed among the suffering poor; but, at length, the visitation became so general, that all the exertions of benevolence were inadequate to relieve even a small portion of the misery that abounded. Nothing remained to the most feeling bosom but the tear of pity, and the hope of peace. Of this last, however, the prospect appeared very faint, till the victory gained by the King of Prussia, over Marshal Daun at Torgau, on the third of November, 1760, gave a new turn to affairs. Amidst the exultation produced by that event, the younger princess of Strelitz took the surprising resolution of writing a letter to the king, more indeed as an appeal to his feelings than an address to his vanity.

The following is a translation of this pathetic epistle, the language and sentiment of which did the highest honour to the genius and spirit of the fair and illustrious writer.

" May it please your Majesty,

" I am at a loss whether I should congratulate or condole with you on your late victory, since the same success which has covered you with laurels has overspread the country of Mecklenburg with

desolation. I know, Sire, that it seems unbecoming my sex, in this age of vicious refinement, to feel for one's country, to lament the horrors of war, or to wish for the return of peace. I know you may think it more properly my province to study the arts of pleasing, or to inspect subjects of a more domestic nature; but, however unbecoming it may be in me, I cannot resist the desire of interceding for this unhappy people.

"It was but a very few years ago that this territory wore the most pleasing appearance. The country was cultivated, the peasant looked cheerful, and the towns abounded with riches and festivity. What an alteration at present from such a charming scene! I am not expert at description, nor can my fancy add any horrors to the picture; but surely even conquerors themselves would weep at the hideous prospects now before me. The whole country, my dear country, lies one frightful waste, presenting only objects to excite terror, pity, and despair. The employments of the husbandman and the shepherd are quite suspended; for the husbandman and the shepherd are become soldiers themselves, and help to ravage the soil which they formerly cultivated. The towns are inhabited only by old men, women, and children; while perhaps here and there a warrior, by wounds or loss of limbs rendered unfit for service, is left at his door, where his little children hang round him, ask the history of

every wound, and grow themselves soldiers before they find strength for the field. But this were nothing, did we not feel the alternate insolence of either army as it happens to advance or retreat; in pursuing the operations of the campaign. It is impossible, indeed, to express the confusion which they who call themselves our friends create, for even those from whom we might expect relief only oppress us with new calamities. From your justice, therefore, it is, Sire, that we hope redress: to you even children and women may complain, whose humanity stoops to the meanest petition, and whose power is capable of repressing the greatest wrong."

What impression this extraordinary epistle had on the personage to whom it was addressed cannot now be ascertained; but from a letter written by Frederic to his General de Zieten, in which he charges him to "revive a sense of due order in the army," it seems fair to conclude that the remonstrance had not been without effect. The language of the king is so remarkable as almost to furnish a commentary on the preceding letter. "I am determined," he says, "that henceforth all violent expedients, all exactions, all arbitrary supplies, shall cease. I shall require the whole army to pay due respect to the laws of discipline, and shall cause every transgression of those laws to be severely

punished." Why the king, who had known of these "violent expedients," should now, for the first time, issue directions for their discontinuance, might well excite surprise in those who had for so long a space suffered under them. His sensibility and justice would certainly have been more honoured in enforcing such wholesome regulations during the heat of the war than at the close of it. The people of Germany, however, soon experienced a favourable change in their circumstances; and while the adulators of the king ascribed that effect to his magnanimity alone, there were some in the secret, who scrupled not to say that the hand of a maiden had touched the chords of his heart.

Copies of the letter were in private circulation among the several courts on that part of the continent; from whence one found its way to the hands of the princess dowager of Wales, who regarded it with more admiration, as she had herself always viewed the German war with abhorrence, and held the character of the King of Prussia in contempt. The princess, however, was under the necessity of concealing her sentiments, as much as possible, in a country where the war was extremely popular, and the Prussian monarch a general favourite, though the nation had to pay him, from year to year, an enormous sum, to enable him to fight his own battles. There were not wanting intelligent persons to see

through the impolicy of such a connexion on the part of England; but their publications on the subject were considered injurious to the national honour, and the writers were covered with the most odious epithets, as the enemies of their country. The continental war was the darling object of the old monarch, George the Second, whose predilection for his electoral estates overbalanced every other concern; and no person could hope for his favour, who ventured to call in question the wisdom of an alliance which exhausted the public revenue, without any prospect of commensurate advantages for such immense sacrifices of blood and treasure.

It is true, England had gained many important acquisitions in America, which, with several splendid naval victories, afforded her the means of negotiating peace on the most honourable terms, and establishing it upon a permanent basis. But it was a problem, at the best, of no very easy solution, whether even these achievements were not dearly purchased by a German war, even on the supposition that this war had, in a direct line, operated to produce our transatlantic conquests.

The prevailing opinion at that time, however, ran in favour of the Prussian alliance, as essential even to the security of our foreign possessions, which strange infatuation was fostered by the ministry, out of complaisance to the king, and much to the benefit of the contractors. But while the

aged sovereign was waiting in great anxiety for despatches from Germany, where the aspect of affairs wore a lowering cast, he was suddenly arrested by death, at Kensington, on the morning of the twenty-fifth of October, 1760, in the seventy-seventh year of his age.

CHAPTER III.

Accession of George the Third.—His Character.—Royal Anecdotes.—Character of the Princess Dowager of Wales.—Her Anxiety for the Settlement of her Son.—Inquiries respecting the Family of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.—Favourable Result.—Open Negotiation.—Declaration of the King.—Marriage Contract.—Death of the Duchess Dowager of Strelitz.—Espousals.—Departure of the Princess from Strelitz.—Feelings of the People.—Arrival at Stade.—Tedious Voyage.—Landing at Harwich, and Journey to London.—Marriage Ceremony.—Public Joy.—Addresses.—Poetical Tributes.

Soon after the commencement of the new reign, public curiosity was on the alert respecting the royal intentions on the subject of marriage. The delay of the coronation seemed to indicate not only that a design of this nature was then contemplated, but that negotiations were actually on foot; and yet so secretly was the affair kept, none who were about the court could form any idea of the real object upon whom the choice of the young monarch had fallen. Speculations were hazarded in abundance, but all of them were wide of the mark, because it was the general expectation that the alliance would be formed on the usual principles of

state policy, and a due regard to powerful connexions. With that view, George the Second had projected some years before his death a union between the Prince of Wales and a niece of the King of Prussia. This proposition was so gratifying to Frederic, that he embraced it with eagerness, and urged the accomplishment of it by repeated applications to the king, and the princess dowager of Wales. But though the former seconded the wishes of his brother monarch, the latter had feelings of a different kind, and sentiments more exalted than those of a political nature. She objected to the proposed marriage, because she considered her son as too young to enter into that state; and she had a still more rooted dislike to it, on account of the libertine principles which prevailed in the family. The princess wisely thought that marriages constructed on merely public grounds were ill calculated to promote either individual or national happiness; and she had the satisfaction to find her son of the same opinion. From the timidity of his disposition, however, and the known dread which he had of his grandfather, the princess was apprehensive lest his resolution should yield to authority or persuasion. Happily, these maternal fears were soon removed; for the young prince expressed himself with such modest firmness on the subject, that the old king, after trying every art, even to the offer of a splendid establishment, in

order to induce compliance, gave up the point, with the remark, "that the boy was good for nothing, and only fit to read the Bible to his mother."

From that time, the prince lived in a very private manner, insomuch, that the nation which he was born to govern had scarcely any opportunity of becoming acquainted with his character. This was entirely owing to the excessive penuriousness of his grandfather, who dreaded incurring the slightest additional expense; and, therefore, was glad to be relieved from any charge for the maintenance of his son's children, to whom, as well as their mother, he always behaved with a reserve which marked absolute dislike. The princess bore all this with the greatest patience, thankful, indeed, that by the parsimony of the king, she was suffered to retain her little family together, under her own inspection, though she had to struggle through numerous difficulties, and to encounter the most acute mortifications. Under all these severe trials, she was supported by the unexampled affection and dutiful attentions of the prince, who studied her comfort in every act and connexion of his life. There were not wanting, however, evil disposed persons, who represented this excellence of character as a proof of weakness on the part of the son, and of political artifice on that of the mother. Such is the malignity of party, that even virtues of the purest nature are sometimes distorted into obli-

quities; and that which ought to command universal admiration, is held up as an object of ridicule. The privacy in which the prince lived, and his refusal of an establishment, on the conditions with which it was shackled, did infinitely more honour to his integrity and forbearance than credit to the feelings of his grandfather, or the liberality of his ministers. Parliament itself can hardly be justified for its indifference to the situation of the heir apparent, and the straitened circumstances of the princess dowager of Wales.

The death of George the Second made a surprising change in the face of the political horizon; and they who had scarcely taken any notice of the prince in public, for fear of giving offence at court, were now the loudest in his praises, and the most obsequious in their respects.

He had but just completed his twenty-second year: a time of life the most critical for the attainment of power, and particularly so to one who may be said to have lived hitherto almost in a state of seclusion from the eminence which he was destined to occupy. His education had not been neglected, though it was made an object of fierce contention among the courtiers, some of whom presented serious remonstrances to the king, in which they complained heavily of the mode of instruction pursued by the tutors, who were even accused of being Jacobites. These charges, upon examination,

period fallacious; but the prince suffered in being thus made the sport of party, and, worse than all, from the neglect with which he was treated by the king, who seldom took the trouble to make any inquiries about the progress which he made, or the competency of those to whom his education was entrusted.

On one occasion, when the young prince was not ten years old, the king, just as he was about to set off for Hanover, sent Baron Stainberg to examine the children of Prince Frederic in their learning. The baron discharged his office very punctually, by taking them all in due course; and at the conclusion said to Prince George, that he would tell the king what a great proficiency his highness had made in his Latin, but that he wished he would be a little more perfect in his German grammar, as it would be of signal use to him. "German grammar! German grammar!" retorted the prince: "why, any dull child can learn that!" This witticism, which would have tickled any other man, gave great offence to the old monarch.

These incidents throw light upon the history of the times, and they afford a clue to the events which distinguished the early part of the new reign.

The German war was not a favourite object with the young monarch; neither was it likely, from the manner in which he had been brought up, that he should heartily espouse the interests of the King

of Prussia, however expedient it might be to maintain the engagements which had been entered into with that potentate. The letter of the young Princess of Mecklenburg was certainly calculated to heighten this aversion to the war, the calamities of which it so pathetically depicted; and the perusal as naturally excited the most favourable sentiments of the talents, the spirit, and the sensibility of the writer.

The princess dowager, with the feeling of a mother who had the real happiness of her son at heart, hailed this circumstance as conducive to that object. Accordingly, with the full consent of the king, she caused secret inquiries to be made at Strelitz about every branch of the ducal family, but more particularly in regard to the person and qualifications of the youngest daughter. This delicate business was entrusted to a person of sound judgment and integrity, who conducted it with such precision and caution, that while the completest information was obtained, not the slightest suspicion arose on the subject of the mission either in Germany or England. When the princess dowager had obtained entire satisfaction, she transmitted a letter by General Græme, in the same private manner, to the Duchess of Mecklenburg, who received the overture with the greatest surprise. It has been said that at this time a Scotch duke was then actually present in the court of Strelitz, as a suitor to

the elder princess, and that his addresses were favoured on every side, when this unexpected proposal put an end to the courtship, much to the regret of the young couple, both of whom remained single to the end of their days.

Let this story be as it may; the correspondence between the princess dowager and the Duchess of Mecklenburg soon came to a point that only required an open declaration on the part of the king, and a formal course of proceeding according to the etiquette usual on such occasions. Still, even up to this period, the most profound secrecy had been observed, so that none of the persons about the British court had the slightest conception of what was passing. The principal reason for this silence appears to have been an apprehension lest the spirit of party should interpose to raise a clamour against the marriage, as one beneath the dignity of a great nation, and contrary to the political interests which ought to be consulted on such occasions.

The project of a matrimonial alliance with the house of Brandenburg has been already mentioned, and it still continued to be entertained by many persons of great weight and influence, particularly the Duke of Cumberland, and his sister Amelia, whose conduct to the princess had been such as to make them jealous of any union that might be formed under her direction.

At length, on the eighth of July, 1761, an extra-

ordinary council was convened, which was very numerously attended, though it is a fact that few of the members knew for what purpose they were assembled, till the king himself delivered this declaration to the president:

"Having nothing so much at heart as to procure the welfare and happiness of my people, and to render the same stable, and permanent to posterity, I have, ever since my accession to the throne, turned my thoughts towards the choice of a princess for my consort; and I now, with great satisfaction, acquaint you, that after the fullest information, and mature deliberation, I am come to a resolution to demand in marriage the Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg Strelitz; a princess distinguished by every eminent virtue and amiable endowment, whose illustrious line has constantly shewn the firmest zeal for the Protestant religion, and a particular attachment to my family. I have judged proper to communicate to you these my intentions, in order that you may be fully apprised of a matter so highly important to me and to my kingdoms, and which, I persuade myself, will be most acceptable to all my loving subjects."

Though the council were taken by surprise, the royal resolution was received with all proper respect; and the same evening the declaration appeared in an extraordinary gazette, accompanied by an order for solemnizing the ceremony of the coronation,

on the twenty-second of September. In the mean time, the Earl of Harcourt hastened to Strelitz to conclude the treaty of marriage in form, and to accompany the queen to England, while Admiral Lord Anson proceeded with the royal yachts and ships of war to Cuxhaven. Before the arrival of the British ambassador in Mecklenburg, the duchess dowager died, which occasioned a little delay; but on the fifteenth of August the customary formalities of affiancing took place, and her serene highness received the compliments of the states of the country on the occasion, after which a sumptuous entertainment was given, at which the bride-elect dined at a separate table, with the Princess of Schwartzburg, her grand-aunt, and the Princess Christina, her sister. His serene highness the duke dined with the English minister, and several ladies and gentlemen, at a large table in the saloon. Four tables, with upwards of one hundred and sixty covers, were served in two other apartments. In the evening the gardens of the castle were illuminated with above forty thousand lamps; the whole town also exhibited similar splendour; and the next day there was a grand festival.

These rejoicings, however, were mixed with some painful sensations at the idea of being separated from a beloved object, whose face few in that country could ever hope to behold again. The scene of parting in the family was also exceedingly affect-

ing, and evinced how much the princess, whose elevation every one contemplated with pride, deserved a throne by the goodness of her heart. But the sentiment was not confined to the palace, as appeared in the extraordinary manner with which the inhabitants of the old town of Strelitz took their leave of the princess.

Of this spectacle the following account was drawn up by an eye witness:

"On the seventeenth of August, 1761, was erected in a plain a triumphal arch, thirty-two feet in height, with two pillars in front; and close to it was a platform of five hundred paces, on which were drawn up the three companies of the town militia, under arms, with their colours flying. On each side of the front of the arch were two green bowers, and a tent, with a variety of refreshments for the spectators, of whom there was a prodigious number from the towns in the neighbourhood, so that they covered the heights all round the place: and the multitudes of persons, horses, and carriages, formed altogether a very lively scene.

"The triumphal arch was decorated with natural foliage and festoons, and over it were two terrestrial globes, having on the first Europe, Asia, and Africa, and on the other America. These globes were surmounted with the arms of Great Britain and Mecklenburg united. On the back part of the triumphal arch were represented autumn and spring in their

attributes of ripe fruits and flowers, with an inscription to this effect,

"Pomona soon succeeds to Flora,
And the bridal chamber supersedes the grave."

This last line had an allusion to the demise of the duchess dowager of Mecklenburg, who died soon after General Græme demanded the princess in marriage, and consequently had not the pleasure of witnessing her daughter's happiness.

"On each side within the arch stood six respectable townsmens' daughters, between eleven and twelve years of age, in white jackets and petticoats, with light blue ribbands, and their hair dressed in natural flowers. Each had in her hand a wreath of myrtle, something larger than a crown; thus waiting the coming of the princess.

"On the skirt of the field towards new Strelitz stood a captain of Mecklenburg horse, in a blue uniform, with sixteen troopers, in order to join the cavalcade attending on her serene highness, and to conduct the whole to the above-mentioned platform.

"This illustrious procession was headed by Marshal Zesterfleth, with two running footmen; then came, in coaches and six, our beloved sovereign the duke, with his brother Prince Charles, attended by several running footmen, and a body of horse-guards; and as they passed under the arch, the burghers saluted them with arms, colours, and music.

"After the march of the horse, came the royal bride herself, in a coach of state, drawn by six horses, the princess her sister sitting on her left hand, and in the front of the coach the Countess Cocceius. Her highness was pleased to stop under the arch, when the burgomaster Tangatz, in the name of the corporation and citizens, delivered the following address:

"Illustrious duchess, most gracious princess, and lady, your royal highness is at present leaving that country whose happiness it has hitherto been to admire in you the model of a perfect princess. You leave it to share with the greatest monarch in Europe a throne respected through every part of the universe. The instant is at hand when your royal highness will, for ever, be withdrawn from our eyes. This affects us the more sensibly under the apprehension that the many great and brilliant objects with which you will henceforth be encircled will efface so small a place as our's from your inesti mable remembrance; yet that goodness which we have hitherto, with transport, admired in your royal highness, revives our spirits: it assures us that you will even from the throne condescend graciously to look back on our town, and continue to be the patroness of those whose happiness it is to be the subjects of your illustrious family. We, therefore, in full confidence, give ourselves up to that lively joy excited in us all on the glorious union to which

the divine Providence has called your royal highness, and beg leave to accompany you with our most cordial wishes for your safe journey, and continual welfare and prosperity.

"May the eternal Ruler of all things, who hath appointed this great event, make your royal highness the most perfect instance of felicity, the delight of that illustrious family into which you are now entering, the joy of Britain, and the glory of the illustrious house of Mecklenburg!

"May our gracious sovereign, the beloved Adolphus-Frederic, long, and in all earthly happiness, together with his faithful subjects, rejoice in these felicities!

"Your royal highness will graciously permit that twelve of our daughters here present, in the attire of innocence, may, as a memorial of this fortunate event, second the ardent sentiments of their fathers, and in artless words most humbly wish you a safe and pleasant journey.'

"This address being concluded, the children repeated their congratulatory verses, after which, with a graceful respect, they threw their myrtle wreaths into the coach to her highness, who expressed her satisfaction in those gracious terms which were ever natural to her, and by which in her tender years she conciliated the unalterable love and esteem of all ranks.

"This ceremony ended, the procession continued

its course. After her serene highness, immediately followed a party of twelve of the horse guards, an empty coach and six, then the Earl of Harcourt with his son, likewise in a coach and six, which nobleman was observed to view with pleasure the emblems over the arch; and the twelve children, who had acquitted themselves so handsomely, and to each of whom he gave a ducat. After the earl, came Counsellor Hardenburg of Hanover; and the cavalcade was closed by near thirty coaches."

The illustrious party took the road to Mirow, where another affecting scene occurred in the final separation of the two sisters at the place of their nativity; nor did this touching picture lose any of its effect by the overflowing feelings of their old nurse, Mrs. Wilbergen, who wept aloud as she bade an eternal adieu to the object whom she idolized.

On the eighteenth the princess arrived at Perleburg, in the marquisate of Brandenburg, where she was complimented on the part of his Prussian majesty, who also gave orders that no charge should be made for post-horses while she passed through his territories: but this favour her serene highness eluded by making a handsome present to the escort that accompanied her out of the Prussian dominions. The next day she continued her route by Lentzen, and on the twentieth reached Gohrde, where she rested, and after dining in public, took a walk in the park. In the boat in which she crossed a branch of the

Elbe, on the twenty-second, was fixed a table, covered with all sorts of fruit. When she landed on the other side, there being no house, huts were prepared for her attendants, and a grand tent for herself, in which she dined. The dinner at this place was provided for three hundred persons, by His Majesty's cooks, who came from Hanover for that purpose. The same evening, at seven o'clock, she made her entry into Stade, with a train of six coaches, escorted by a guard of Hanoverian horse. All the cannon on the walls were fired, the bells rung throughout the place, and at night there was a general illumination. The burgesses under arms lined the street through which the cavalcade passed; and at the end of it a triumphal arch was erected, ornamented with various emblems and inscriptions in Latin. The same evening the members of the Hamburg company were introduced, when an appropriate address was delivered to her serene highness, who received the gentlemen very courteously, and returned them a short answer in the German language. At the same time, some of the principal ladies of the town presented her with congratulatory verses, upon rich velvet cushions.

The next day, being Sunday, her serene highness rested at Buxtehude, and on Monday morning, at half past nine, she left Stade in the admiralty barge, with the royal standard flying, accompanied

by her brother, Prince Charles, the Earl of Harcourt, and Lord Anson. On passing down the river, which was lined on each side with spectators, the fort and ships saluted, and in about an hour her highness reached the Royal Charlotte yacht, which was dressed in the colours of all nations; but the moment she came on board these flags were struck, and the royal standard hoisted at the main top-mast head, the admiralty flag at the fore-top, and the union at the mizen. The Lynx sloop of war now hoisted the admiral's flag, and gave the signal, on which all the ships fired a salute of twenty-one guns each.

Her serene highness then said, "Is it possible that I can be worthy of all these honours?" This drew tears of joy from the Duchess of Ancaster, to whom, and the Duchess of Hamilton, when they were introduced, and were kneeling to kiss her hand, she as nobly said, "She hoped friendship might take place of ceremony between them," and then saluted them both.

Soon after this, the wind which had blown fresh some days, began to increase, in consequence of which the yacht lay at anchor all that day.

On the twenty-fifth, the Royal Charlotte got under sail about nine in the morning, and passed the Danish fort of Gluckstadt, which, strangely enough, paid no honours to the English standard. That

night the vessel again anchored, and the next morning reached Cuxhaven, where salutes were fired from the batteries on each side, and the brother of her serene highness went on shore. An attempt was now made to push out to the red buoy; but the wind being adverse, and the sea excessively boisterous, the admiral judiciously returned to anchor in the road of Cuxhaven, where the yacht lay till Friday morning, and then joined the large ships, who saluted as she came up, and the Nottingham of sixty guns hoisted the admiral's flag. The squadron then proceeded to sea; for though the weather was exceedingly tempestuous, and the winds adverse, there was great anxiety on the part of the king that the ceremony of the marriage should precede that of the coronation; the time appointed for which was now very near at hand. Every exertion was, therefore, made by Lord Anson to reach the Nore, but the wind blew so directly against him, that he could not even make any English port on the east coast with safety. Twice Flamborough Head appeared in view, but the ships were as repeatedly driven to sea again, by the violence of the gale, in which every one of them suffered some damage. Thus, for the space of ten days, were they baffled in their attempts to make a harbour; in the morning filled with hopes of landing their charge on English ground, and in the evening apprehensive of being driven on the coast

of Norway. Such was the fury of the tempest, that it was feared it would have proved of serious consequence to one who had never seen the ocean. But her highness was very little, if at all, affected with sea-sickness; and while the two duchesses were exceedingly ill, she bore the voyage with uncommon spirits, walking about the cabin, talking freely with the officers, and occasionally playing on the harpsichord.

At length the yacht entered the road of Harwich, on Sunday evening; but it being late, and no preparations made for the reception of the princess, she remained on board till three o'clock the next day. During this interval, a messenger had been sent to London, where all was hurry and confusion.

Never, perhaps, was public impatience carried higher than at this period. The people watched the wind every morning with as much anxiety as if they were in eager expectation of the arrival of a near relative; and it being generally supposed that the royal yacht would enter the Thames for the purpose of landing the princess at Greenwich, where great preparations were made for her reception, the bustle on the river increased every day after it was known that she had taken her departure from Strelitz. Houses, pleasure-boats, and barges, were hired all along the river wherever there was the least hope of seeing this interesting visitor.

When the news of her arrival became known,

all the horses and carriages in and about London were put in requisition; and the Essex road was literally covered with anxious spectators.

At three in the afternoon, on Monday, September the seventh, the bride-elect first set foot on English ground, at Harwich, where she was received by the mayor and aldermen of the corporation in their formalities, amidst an immense assemblage of persons of all ranks, who hailed her appearance with loud acclamations. About five o'clock the same day she came to Colchester, where she stopped, and took tea at the house of Mr. Enew: while there, she received a box of eringo root, the product of that town, and which, according to ancient custom, is always presented to any of the royal family who visit that place. From Colchester she proceeded to Witham, the seat of Lord Abercorn, who was not present to do the honours of his house to so illustrious a guest. However, as elegant an entertainment was provided as the time would permit: and during supper, the door of the room was left wide open, that all persons might have the pleasure of seeing their future queen; on one side of whose chair stood the Earl of Harcourt, and on the other Lord Anson. The next morning, a little after twelve o'clock, she came to Rumford, where she alighted, and took coffee at the house of Mr. Dutton, a wine merchant. At Rumford she was met by the king's servants;

and about one o'clock entered His Majesty's coach with the Duchesses of Ancaster and Hamilton. She was now dressed entirely in the English fashion, having a fly cap, with rich laced lappets, a stomacher ornamented with diamonds, and a gold brocade suit, with a white ground. Her coach was preceded by three of the royal carriages, in which were the several ladies of her suite, both English and German. Perceiving the eagerness manifested by the people, who thronged the roads as she passed to have a view of her person, she expressed her desire that the pace might be moderated, to gratify public curiosity, while, at intervals, she bowed most courteously to those who greeted her approach. The whole of her behaviour indicated a most agreeable temper; and every one who had an opportunity of observing her manner was quite charmed with the gracefulness of her deportment, and the strong tokens of sensibility and goodness which appeared in her countenance.

Parties of the Leicestershire militia were posted in all the towns through which she had to pass; and at Mile End she was met by the Life Guards, who accompanied her the remainder of the way, by Islington and the New Road, then through Hyde Park, and down Constitution Hill to St. James's, where she was handed out of the carriage by the Duke of York, and received by the king, who raised her up and saluted her just as she was about to drop on her

knee to pay him obeisance. His Majesty then took her by the hand, and leading her into the palace, introduced her to the princess dowager of Wales, and the several branches of the royal family, who were assembled to welcome her arrival. After dinner she made her appearance in the gallery, and at different windows of the palace, that the people who crowded every avenue might gratify their loyal feelings, the loud expression of which evidently afforded great satisfaction to the royal pair.

About nine o'clock in the evening, the procession to the chapel commenced in the following order.

THE BRIDE'S PROCESSION.

Drums and Trumpets.
The Serjeant Trumpeter.
The Princess's Servants.
A Page.
A Quarter Waiter.
A Gentleman Usher, between the Two Senior Heralds.
Vice Chamberlain.
Maids of Honour.
Ladies of the Bed Chamber, not Peeresses.
Peeresses.
Unmarried Daughters of Peers.

King's Vice Chamberlain.	King's Lord Chamberlain.

THE BRIDE,

In her Nuptial Habit, supported by their Royal Highnesses the Duke of York, and Prince William-Henry,

Her Train borne by Ten unmarried Daughters of Dukes and Earls, viz.

Lady Sarah Lenox.	Lady Caroline Russel.
Lady Ann Hamilton.	Lady Elizabeth Ker.
Lady Harriet Bentinck.	Lady Caroline Montague.
Lady Elizabeth Keppel.	Lady Louisa Greville.
Lady Elizabeth Harcourt.	Lady Susan Strangeways.

Her serene highness having been in this manner conducted to the chapel, the Lord Chamberlain and Vice Chamberlain, with the two Heralds, returned to wait upon His Majesty.

THE KING'S PROCESSION.

Drums and Trumpets, as before.
The Knight Marshal.
Pursuivants and Heralds at Arms.
Knights of the Bath, not Peers, wearing their Collars.
Privy Councillors, not Peers.
Comptroller and Treasurer of the Household.
Barons.
Bishops in their Rochets.
Viscounts.
Earls.
Lord Steward of the Household.
Marquises.
Dukes.
Norroy, and Clarenceux Kings of Arms.

Two Serjeants at Arms.	Lord Privy Seal.	Two Serjeants at Arms.
	Lord President.	
	Lord Chancellor.	

Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.

Garter Principal King of Arms, with his White Rod or Sceptre, between Two Gentlemen Ushers.

The Earl Marshal.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.

His Royal Highness Prince Frederic.

His Royal Highness Prince Henry.

The Sword of State, borne by the Duke of Bedford, Knight of the Garter, in his Collar, between the Lord Chamberlain and Vice Chamberlain.

The KING, wearing his Collar.

Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard. — Captain of the *Life* Guard — Captain of the Band of Pensioners.

The Gentlemen of the Bed Chamber in waiting.

The Master of the Robes.

Two Grooms of the Bed Chamber.

Gentlemen Pensioners.

The ceremony was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Cumberland giving away the bride, at which moment, by signal, the Park and Tower guns were fired. Their Majesties sat on one side of the altar, on two state chairs, under a canopy; her royal highness the princess dowager facing them, on a chair of state, on the other side: all the rest of the royal family on stools, and all the peers, peeresses, bishops, and foreign ministers, on benches. The following anthem, composed by Doctor Boyce, was then sung by the gentlemen of the chapel royal.

A GRAND FESTIVAL SYMPHONY.

CHORUS.

The King shall rejoice in thy strength, O Lord: exceeding glad shall he be of thy salvation.

DUET.

Thou hast given him his heart's desire; and hast not denied him the request of his lips.

CHORUS REPEATED.

Blessed is the man that hath a virtuous wife; for the number of his days shall be doubled.

SOLO.

A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: her price is far above rubies.

Strength and honour are her cloathing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

SOLO.

Hearken, O daughter, consider and incline thine ear; forget thine own people, and thy father's house.

So shall the king have pleasure in thy beauty.

Instead of thy father, thou shalt have children, whom thou mayest make princes in all lands.

CHORUS.

Children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Lo! thus shall they be blessed that fear the Lord. Hallelujah!

The anthem being ended, the procession returned in the following order.

Drums and Trumpets.
Serjeant Trumpeter.
The Queen's Servants.
A Page.
A Quarter Waiter.
A Gentleman Usher, between Two Heralds.
Pursuivants and Heralds at Arms.
Knights of the Bath, not Peers.
Privy Councillors, not Peers.
Unmarried Daughters of Peers.
Peeresses.
Peers, as before.
Norroy, and Clarenceux Kings at Arms.
Lord Privy Seal.
Lord President.
Lord Chancellor.
Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.
Garter, between Two Gentlemen Ushers.
The Earl Marshal.
His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.
His Royal Highness Prince Frederic.
His Royal Highness Prince Henry.
The Sword of State between the Lord Chamberlain and Vice Chamberlain.

THE KING.

The Three Captains of the Guard.
The Gentlemen of the Bed Chamber in waiting.
Master of the Robes.
Two Grooms of the Bed Chamber.

THE QUEEN.

Conducted by the Lord Chamberlain and Vice Chamberlain, supported by their Royal Highnesses the Duke of York and Prince William, her Train borne as before.
The Ladies of Her Majesty's Bed Chamber in waiting.
Maids of Honour.
Gentlemen Pensioners.

There was afterwards a public drawing-room, but no presentations took place that evening. The houses in the cities of London and Westminster were illuminated, and the night was concluded with the utmost demonstrations of joy.

A very lively picture of the public anxiety at that time is given in a letter written by Mr. Horace Walpole, afterwards Lord Orford, to the Earl of Strafford.

"Nothing," says he, "was ever equal to the bustle and uncertainty of the town for these three days. The Queen was seen off the coast on Saturday last, and is not arrived yet; nay, last night, at ten o'clock, it was neither certain where she landed, nor when she would be in town. I forgive history for knowing nothing, when so public an event as the arrival of a new queen is a mystery even at this very moment in St. James's Street. The messenger that brought the letter yesterday morning, said, she *arrived* at half an hour after four at Harwich. This was immediately translated into *landing*, and

notified in those words to the ministers. Six hours afterwards it proved no such thing, and that she was only in Harwich Road: and they recollected that *half an hour after four* happens twice in twenty-four hours, and the letter did not specify which of the *twices* it was. Well! the bridemaids whipped on their virginity; the New Road and the parks were thronged; the guns were choaking with impatience to go off, and Sir James Lowther, who was to pledge His Majesty, was actually married to Lady Mary Stuart. Five, six, seven, eight o'clock came, and no queen. She lay at Witham, at Lord Abercorn's, who was most tranquilly in town; and it is not certain even whether she will be composed enough to be in town to-night. She has been sick but half an hour; sung and played on the harpsichord all the voyage, and been cheerful the whole time."

In a postscript to the same letter, the facetious writer adds, "Madam Charlotte is this instant arrived. The noise of coaches, chaises, horsemen, mob, that have been to see her pass through the parks is so prodigious that I cannot distinguish the guns. I am going to be dressed, and before seven shall be launched into the crowd."

In another letter, written to General Conway, then in Ireland, Mr. Walpole gave a very characteristic sketch of the Queen, with some anecdotes, which cannot be told so well as in his own words.

"The date of my promise is now arrived, and I fulfil it—fulfil it with great satisfaction, for the Queen is come. I have seen her, have been presented to her, and may go back to Strawberry. For this fortnight I have lived upon the road between Twickenham and London. I came, grew impatient, returned; came again, still to no purpose. The yacht made the coast of Suffolk last Saturday, on Sunday entered the road of Harwich, and on Monday morning, the king's chief eunuch, as the Tripoline embassador calls Lord Anson, landed the princess. She lay that night at Lord Abercorn's, at Witham, the palace of Silence; and yesterday, at a quarter after three, arrived at St. James's. In half an hour, one heard of nothing but proclamations of her beauty: every body was content, every body pleased. At seven one went to court. The night was sultry. About ten, the procession began to move towards the chapel, and at eleven they all came up into the drawing-room. She looks very sensible, cheerful, and is remarkably genteel. Her tiara of diamonds was very pretty; her stomacher sumptuous; her violet-velvet mantle and ermine so heavy, that the spectators knew as much of her upper half as the king himself. You will have no doubt of her sense by what I shall tell you. On the road they wanted her to curl her toupet: she said she thought it looked as well as that of any of the ladies sent to fetch her; if the

King bid her, she would wear a periwig, otherwise she would remain as she was. When she caught the first glimpse of the palace, she grew frightened, and turned pale. The Duchess of Hamilton smiled —the princess said, "My dear duchess, you may laugh: you have been married twice, but it is no joke to me." Her lips trembled as the coach stopped, but she jumped out with spirit, and has done nothing but with good humour and cheerfulness. She talks a great deal, is easy, civil, and not disconcerted. At first, when the bridemaids and the court were introduced to her, she said "Mon Dieu, il y en a tant, il y en a tant!"—She was pleased when she was to kiss the peeresses: but Lady Augusta was forced to take her hand and give it to those that were to kiss it, which was prettily humble and good-natured. While they waited for supper, she sat down, sung, and played. Her French is tolerable: she exchanged much both of that and German with the King, the duke, and the Duke of York. They did not get to bed till two. To-day was a drawing-room: every body was presented to her: but she spoke to nobody, as she could not know a soul. The crowd was much less than at a birth-day; the magnificence very little more. The King looked very handsome, and talked to her continually, and with great good humour. It does not promise as if they two would

be the two most unhappy persons in England, from this event."

The day after the nuptials, a grand levee, comprehending also a drawing-room, was held at court, where, among other objects of admiration, the ten young ladies who had acted as bridemaids were particularly distinguished, being all attired alike in white lutstring dresses, ornamented with silver trimmings and rich jewels, that produced a very pleasing effect. The same night there was a most splendid ball, which was opened by the Duke of York, and his sister, the Princess Augusta, afterwards Duchess of Brunswick.

Pursuant to an order in council, an additional clause was inserted in the prayer for the royal family, placing the name of the Queen before that of the princess dowager of Wales; and this was attended to the following Sunday, when their majesties went to the Chapel Royal, which was uncommonly crowded. The sermon preached by the King's chaplain in waiting, the Reverend Mr. Schutz, was a plain practical discourse on the words "Provide things honest in the sight of all men:" and it is here mentioned, because many of the congregation were disappointed at not finding any complimentary allusions in it to the happy union which had just taken place. But this was, in fact, a compliance with the royal intimation, for the King, immediately

after his accession, had expressly signified it as his pleasure, that nothing bordering upon adulation should be delivered in his presence from the pulpit; and it deserves remark, that the only two persons who violated this excellent monition were Dr. Thomas Wilson, and Mr. Mason the poet, both of whom incurred the royal displeasure, and in consequence, out of pique, became furious patriots.

On Monday evening, their majesties, in chairs, and most of the royal family in coaches, attended by the horse guards, went to Drury Lane Theatre, where the Rehearsal was performed by the King's command; and it is not a little remarkable that this was the first play which the Queen ever saw, dramatic entertainments having been interdicted in Mecklenburg, as tending to promote dissipation and idleness.

On the present occasion, the streets were lined with spectators, all the way from the palace to the theatre; and so eager were the people to see the Queen, as to press close to her chair, which gave her considerable alarm; but upon entering the house she soon recovered her spirits, and appeared highly delighted with the performance. Never, perhaps, was there a more splendid audience, the ladies being mostly dressed in the cloaths and jewels which they wore at the royal marriage. The house was nearly full as soon as the doors were open; so that out of the vast multitudes that pressed for admit-

tance, not a fiftieth part could gain an entrance, to the infinite disappointment of many thousands.

Much mischief was done, and one or two persons lost their lives by being trampled upon in the crowd, which was so closely compacted together, as to be totally immoveable, while they who were thus wedged in, experienced a sense of suffocation that could only be compared to the miseries endured by the sufferers in the black hole of Calcutta.

Among the numerous addresses which poured in upon the occasion of the royal nuptials, one from the ladies of St. Albans was of so extraordinary a cast as to merit particular notice and selection.

"To THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

"The humble address of the LADIES of the Borough of St. Albans, in the County of Hertford.

"May it please your Majesty.

"We your Majesty's most dutiful and affectionate subjects, being by *custom* precluded from being named in the address of the mayor and corporation of this place, beg leave to approach your majesty with the warmest congratulations on your happy nuptials.

"Formed by nature, and improved by the completest education, you were selected by the best of kings, to add the only happiness that was wanting to his majesty in the world.

"As subjects are greatly influenced by the example of their sovereign, we have the greatest reason to hope that the matrimonial state will be duly honoured by your majesty's dutiful subjects, cheerfully following the royal example, an example too much wanted in this degenerate age, wherein that happy state is made the object of ridicule instead of respect, by too many of vain, giddy, and dissipated minds. If the riches of a nation consists in its populousness, this happy country will in that respect too soon become poor, whilst the lawful means to continue posterity are either shackled by the restraint of mistaken laws, or despised by those who regard none.

"But as every virtuous and commendable action is encouraged by your royal consort's, and your own noble sentiments and conduct, we hope this example will be duly followed by your majesty's loyal subjects.

"That you may long remain a pattern of conjugal fidelity and happiness, and see a numerous offspring grow up as tender plants under your maternal influence, to be a blessing to their royal parents and to this nation, are the sincere and ardent wishes of your majesty's most dutiful and devoted subjects,

THE LADIES OF ST. ALBANS."

This address, from its singularity, could not fail to excite general observation, and some amusement

It accordingly gave rise to the following piece of humour.

"To the Queen's most excellent Majesty.

"The unanimous petition of the maidens of these realms, of thirty years of age and upwards,

"Humbly sheweth,

"That we, your petitioners, encouraged by the great condescension and goodness with which your majesty was pleased to receive the address from the ladies of St. Albans, are emboldened more fully to make known our grievances, which that address only hinted at. We are, Madam, by our own appellation, prudent women, but in the vulgar style, old maids; a name, already become dreadful to the young women of this nation, and will, we imagine, in time, be more so than that of a wanton. This we have the more reason to fear, since there is scarce a married woman who does not look upon us with contempt, from the day she is made a bride, which not only causes the single men to place a great value on themselves, but (what we most regret) shews a great want of delicacy in many of our sex, who esteem themselves virtuous. These are mortifications—yet are we obliged to endure still greater, nor are we ashamed to confess our chagrin, when we see men of sense, and, in other respects, good morals, who, instead of being fathers

of religious and well-governed families, and supporting friends to the truly valuable of our sex, do, by their familiarity with the vilest, give them a power to treat us, as they do God's laws, with open defiance, since they cannot but be conscious of the ascendency they have over the hearts and affections of many whom we could wish to call husbands. Therefore, most noble princess, your petitioners most humbly beg leave to hope that, through your majesty's intercession, the King will be pleased to cause a high tax to be laid on each single man of the age of thirty-six, who has ever been detected in a criminal intrigue (and doubled if with a married woman), or through vanity has boasted of favours to the dishonour of our sex. From this tax (as it is presumed it will be proportioned to the fortune of the offender) may be raised a considerable sum, which, as money is now wanting to carry on the war, will be of great benefit to the nation. We mean not to direct the legislature, a province not our's, yet we humbly conceive that the gentlemen of the army, who may now be said to be fighting in our defence, shall pass tax free till the day peace is proclaimed; but to shew we mean not to be partial to the red coats, (of which all women are accused) we propose that they, as well as others, be taxed from that day: and we humbly hope, through your majesty's influence, that the sum so raised annually shall, from the day of peace, be appropriated to

our use, for the support of neglected and superannuated virgins: and to shew we mean not to encroach on the other sex, we further propose, that no single woman shall have a claim on the fund thus to be raised till she is forty years of age, and then a maiden on her oath. This must be allowed generous, since we become a bye-word ten years earlier; nor shall any maiden be allowed her claim who has been heard to explode the marriage state:—and further to shew our candour, we propose that each single man, at the age of thirty-six, or upwards, who will swear himself a true bachelor, shall be exempt from the said tax; for the single life, if godly, is praiseworthy.

"Thus, madam, should we be so happy as to succeed under your majesty's auspicious influence, then may we vie with the matrons for merit; nor shall we regret being neglected by the men, since the being protected by a queen, adorned with so many shining virtues, shall cast a lustre on us, and shew the world in general, and the men in particular, that it is their want of discernment, not our's, of true worth, that has kept us single."

Though the muses could not be silent on an event so peculiarly adapted to call forth their happiest strains, the published effusions were in general more distinguished by loyalty than sublimity. The two best productions were an address to the Queen, by Mr. Thomas Warton, of Oxford, and an elegant

little fable, the composition of an anonymous writer, with both of which this chapter shall be concluded.

TO THE QUEEN.

When first the kingdom to thy virtues due
Rose from the billowy deep in distant view;
When Albion's isle, old Ocean's peerless pride,
Tower'd in imperial state above the tide
What bright ideas of the new domain,
Form'd the fair prospect of thy promis'd reign!
And well with conscious joy thy breast might beat,
That Albion was ordain'd thy royal seat;
Lo! this the land, where freedom's sacred rage
Has glow'd untam'd, through many a martial age.
Here patriot ALFRED, stain'd with Danish blood,
Rear'd on one base, the king's, the people's good:
Here HENRY's archers fram'd the stubborn bow,
That laid Alanzon's haughty helmet low:
Here wak'd the flame, that still superior braves
The proudest threats of Gaul's ambitious slaves:
Here chivalry, stern school of valour old,
Her noblest feats of knightly fame enroll'd:
Heroic champions heard the clarion's call,
And throng'd the board in EDWARD's banner'd hall:
While chiefs, like GEORGE, approv'd in worth alone,
Unlock'd chaste beauty's adamantine zone.
Lo! the fam'd isle, which hails thy chosen sway,
What fertile fields her temperate suns display!
Where property secures the conscious swain,
And guards, while plenty gives, the golden grain;
Hence, ripe with stores her villages abound,
Her airy downs with scatter'd sheep resound.

Fresh are her pastures with unceasing rills,
And future navies crown her darksome hills.
To bear her formidable glory far,
Behold her opulence of hoarded war!
See, from her ports a thousand banners stream,
On every coast her vengeful lightnings gleam!
Meantime, remote from ruin's armed hand,
In peaceful majesty her cities stand;
Where splendid domes, and tradeful sheets declare,
Their firmest fort, a King's parental care.
And, O! blest Queen, if e'er the magic powers
Of warbled truth have won thy musing hours;
Here Poesy, from awful days of yore,
Has pour'd her genuine gifts of raptur'd lore.
Mid oaken bowers, with holy verdure wreath'd,
In druid-songs her solemn spirit breath'd:
While cunning bards, at ancient banquets, sung
Of paynim foes defy'd, and trophies hung.
Here Spenser tun'd his mystic minstrelsy,
And dress'd in fairy robes a Queen like thee.
Here, boldly mark'd with every living hue,
Nature's unbounded portrait Shakspeare drew:
But chief, the dreadful group of human woes
The daring artist's tragic pencil chose;
Explor'd the pangs that rend the royal breast,
Those wounds that lurk beneath the tissu'd vest!
Lo! this the land, whence Milton's muse of fire,
High soar'd to steal from heaven a seraph's lyre;
And told the golden ties of wedded love
In sacred Eden's amaranthine grove.
Thine too, majestic bride, the favour'd clime,
Where science sits enshrin'd in roofs sublime,

O mark how green her wood of ancient bays
O'er Isis' marge in many a chaplet strays!
Thither, if haply some distinguish'd flower
Of these mix'd blooms from that ambrosial bowes,
Might catch thy glance, and rich in nature's hue,
Entwine thy diadem with honour due;
If seemly gifts the train of Phœbus pay,
To deck imperial Hymen's festive day;
Thither thyself shall haste, and mildly deign
To tread with nymph-like step the conscious plain:
Pleas'd in the muse's nook, with decent pride,
To throw the scepter'd pall of state aside,
Nor from the shade shall GEORGE be long away,
Which claims CHARLOTTA's love, and courts her stay.
These are Britannia's praises. Deign to trace,
With rapt reflection, freedom's favourite race.
But though the generous isle, in arts and arms,
Thus stands supreme, in nature's choicest charms;
Though GEORGE and conquest guard her sea-girt throne,
One happier blessing still she calls her own;
And, proud a fresh increase of fame to view,
Crowns all her glory by possessing you.

APOLOGUE.

One cloudy day, a drop of rain
(As it hung hov'ring o'er the main)
Cry'd out with innate modesty,
"What can I add, oh flood! to thee?
"When once upon thy surface toss'd,
"In thy immensity I'm lost;

"Of no importance to thy wave,
"I seem at least to meet my grave.
"Oh! why should Jove, all good, all wise,
"The least of all his creatures prize?
"Why should his blessings downwards fly,
"On such a worthless form as I?"
With pleasure, Jove his ear inclin'd,
To one so humble, so resign'd:
True merit claims his high regard,
And seldom loses its reward.
This modest unambitious drop
Soon by an oyster swallow'd up;
Content within its shell he lies,
And there to heaven erects his eyes.
To Jove directs his daily pray'r,
And thanks the Godhead for his care:
His praises, incense like, arise,
And as they mount perfume the skies.
"Pleas'd with thy prayers, and with thy praise,
"I'll now," said Jove, "thy fortune raise.
"Henceforth become (so Heaven sees good)
"A pearl of the first magnitude.
"And thus transform'd, with speed resort
"To fair Britannia's splendid court;
"There all thy radiant lustre spread
"Around my fav'rite CHARLOTTE'S head.
"Tell her 'twas I, Jove, sent thee down,
"To stand conspicuous on her crown;
"Since well I know, in her esteem,
"Virtue's the brightest diadem."

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

CHAPTER IV.

Foretastes of Happiness.—Conduct of the Queen.—Description of her Person.—Establishment of her Household.—Preparations for the Coronation.—Particulars of the Ceremony.—Anecdote of the King.—Visit to Covent Garden Theatre.—Royal Procession to the City on Lord Mayor's Day.—Visit to Mr. Barclay.—Entertainment at Guildhall.—Parliamentary Settlement of the Queen's Dower.—She attends the House of Lords.—Purchase of Buckingham House.

NEVER did a royal marriage occasion more gladness throughout any nation than that which now lighted up one sentiment of joy in every part of the British isles. The remotest villages manifested a similar spirit to that which prevailed in the metropolis of the empire; and there was hardly a cottage in the land that did not share in the general festivity. It seemed as if every family and individual made the event interesting to their private feelings, and regarded it as connected with their personal happiness. At this auspicious moment all hearts appeared to harmonize with each other, and to vie in nothing but the expression of sympathetic attachment to the young monarch and his blooming bride. It was, indeed, a season of feli-

citous promise, when, in the suspension of the din of war, and the clamour of faction, the people considered their own happiness as increased by that of their sovereign. Thus it might have been said of the nuptial bower of Britain, as of that in the commencement of the social state,

> "All heaven,
> And happy constellations, in that hour,
> Shed their selectest influence: the earth
> Gave sign of gratulation, and each hill:
> Joyous the birds; fresh gales and gentle airs
> Whisper'd it to the woods, and from their wings
> Flung rose, flung odours from the spicy shrub,
> Disporting, till the amorous bird of night
> Sang spousal, and bid haste the evening star
> On his hill-top, to light the bridal lamp."

The eagerness of public expectation, in regard to the permanence of connubial affection among the great, is often clouded by their early indifference; so that the confidence excited by admiration soon sinks into contempt.

The cause of this is to be sought in the erroneous principles on which such alliances are founded. Without having an opportunity of knowing each other's tempers, and guided solely by report, the chance of happiness is infinitely outweighed by the probabilities of repentance and discord. In the present case, the balance preponderated on the

other side, owing to the motives in which the union originated. The King, instead of looking out for external charms and powerful connexions, sought a partner whose mental graces and sterling virtues, by insuring his tranquillity, would prove a blessing to his subjects. When, therefore, the letter of the Princess of Mecklenburg to the Prussian monarch came into his hands, he at once, without making any observations upon the personal attractions of the writer, concluded that he had found the object calculated to promote his felicity. "This," said he to Lord Harcourt, "is the lady whom I shall secure for my consort. Here are lasting beauties. The man who has any mind may feast, and not be satiated. If the disposition of the princess but equals her refined sense, I shall be the happiest man, as I hope, with my people's concurrence, to be the happiest monarch in Europe."

The result abundantly confirmed the prudence of the choice; and the conduct of the illustrious person, who was the object of it, soon justified the opinion on which it was founded.

Though the Queen was now only in her eighteenth year, and naturally of a vivacious turn, neither the fondness of her husband, the splendour with which she was surrounded, nor the public acclamations which followed her wherever she went, had the effect of elating her mind with vanity, or

of inducing a spirit of levity. By her affable and condescending manner to all who approached her person, she evinced a mind elevated above the dazzling eminence of a throne; and while thus she endeared herself to the people, the sweetness of her temper so completely won the heart of the monarch, that every day witnessed increased affection.

This may be considered as the triumph of reason and virtue, for the Queen could not certainly be pronounced an absolute beauty, when the observer contemplated her person without being affected by the charm of royalty.

She was described at this time as being of a middling stature, and rather small, but her shape fine, and carriage graceful; her hands and neck exceedingly well turned; her hair auburn; her face round and fair; the eyes of a light blue, and beaming with sweetness; the nose a little flat, and turned up at the point; the mouth rather large, with rosy lips, and very fine teeth.

Such was the portraiture as sketched by those who had the nearest opportunities of seeing her features, while those who frequently witnessed her behaviour were enraptured with the unaffected modesty of her mien, the uniform courteousness mixed with dignity of her deportment, her graceful and expressive manner of speaking, and the

benignity of her look when receiving any complimentary address, or holding communication with her attendants.

With qualities so perfectly agreeable and insinuating, shining in the bloom of youth, it was not to be wondered that the most extravagant reports of her exterior charms should be spread through the nation; and it is a curious fact that one printseller had the art to pass off the portrait of a once celebrated beauty as a faithful likeness of her majesty.

In the formation of the new royal household, every care was taken to give general satisfaction to the great families, and at the same time to place around the Queen those only who were worthy of her confidence.

The establishment was splendid; and it deserves observation that some who then entered upon it continued in the same capacity till very nearly the period of its termination. The descendants of others have also in succession occupied the same places; and it is a circumstance deserving of notice, that in all the public changes and agitations of a long reign, the household of the Queen never suffered any revolution on account of party connexions and political opinions. This firm attachment of Her Majesty to old servants, and their families, ensured tranquillity to the palace, when the madness of faction raged throughout the kingdom.

After their marriage, the royal pair resided almost

entirely at St. James's, making only short excursions to Kew and Richmond, with occasional visits to the Princess Dowager of Wales, at Leicester House.

The approaching coronation engrossed much of their attention, as it did that of the people at large; and perhaps on no similar occasion did public curiosity rise to so high a pitch. The arrival of the Queen, indeed, added much to the ardour of expectation, so that between the one ceremony and the other, nothing was heard but the bustle of preparation. The hall and abbey of Westminster were filled with new galleries of a peculiar construction, and in the former building they appeared suspended from the very roof, in a manner more calculated to excite alarm than to afford pleasure. From the end of the hall where the procession was to commence, a platform was erected, and continued through New Palace Yard, Parliament Street, and Bridge Street, into King Street, and so through the west door of the abbey, up to the choir.

The fronts of the houses on each side of this platform, and in every direction where a view could be commanded, were lined with scaffoldings, the seats on which were let at the most exorbitant rates. In the abbey, the price of a front seat for a single person was ten guineas; and in the most convenient houses along the line of the procession the charge was no less extravagant. In ordinary houses, the

prices varied from five guineas to one guinea, according to the situation; and even on the external booths or scaffoldings, which were called coronation theatres, and held from twelve to fifteen hundred persons, the fees for admission were enormous. So great, indeed, was the rage to see this grand national spectacle, that a gentleman actually paid one hundred and forty guineas for two rooms on a floor, to accommodate his lady, who was attended by her accoucheur and nurse, it being expected, from her advanced state of pregnancy, that she would be delivered before or during the procession.

Every care was taken to prevent accidents; and as it was naturally apprehended that the joy of the people would be expressed by bonfires and illuminations, an order was issued, that no fireworks should be displayed in any part of Westminster, from Whitehall to Millbank, and from thence to Buckingham Gate, round the south-west part of the Artillery Ground, till seven days after the coronation. By another order, all fires were forbidden to be lighted on the day of the ceremony, in or about the scaffoldings, on any pretence whatever; and in case there should be a necessity for the people employed to go under the same with lights, it was directed that they should make use of lanterns. By these precautionary measures, all apprehensions of fire, which might have affected many timid persons, were removed.

To prevent accidents by the stoppage of carriages, on the day of the coronation, notice was given, that a way was made for them to pass through Parliament Street, across the New and Old Palace Yards; and they were enjoined, as soon as discharged, to proceed on directly to Millbank, and from thence to Hyde Park Corner, without making any stop or deviation. It was also further ordered, that none but the coaches of peers, and others who attended the solemnity, should pass that way after seven o'clock in the morning, nor any whatever after nine: and in the evening, the coaches were to return the same way; but none were permitted to pass back, by any of those ways, till after the return of their majesties to St. James's Palace.

Information having been given to the lords of the privy council, that the hackney coachmen and chairmen had entered into a combination not to ply on that day, without exorbitant fares, an order was published, requiring all of them to be out with their coaches and chairs by four in the morning, and faithfully to perform their duty without any additional demands, on pain of being proceeded against with the utmost severity. But even this would have been of little avail, for they refused at last to work at all on that day; and would probably have persisted in the resolution, had it not been for the prudence of an eminent sedan-chair manufacturer, who circulated a handbill, assuring the chair-

men that the nobility and gentry would consider them properly, if the fares were left entirely to their discretion. In consequence of this remonstrance, the chairmen gave due attendance, and were handsomely remunerated, each set down, of a moderate length, being generally discharged with a guinea. The officers of the Board of Works made a regular survey of the temporary buildings that were erected, to see that all were secure, and capable of sustaining the numerous spectators by whom the same would be occupied.

To preserve order in the streets, the soldiers on duty were ranged in such a manner, that no obstruction could take place, and all their officers were required to be in attendance for the same purpose. Many of these accommodated their friends with the military dress, that they might have the better opportunity of seeing the procession; and even the cloaths of common soldiers were made use of for the attainment of the same object.

As it was reasonable to fear, that after all the precautions which human wisdom could adopt, casualties would happen, preparations were made, by clearing many of the wards of the nearest hospitals, to receive such unfortunate persons as might receive injury. Parties of the light horse were also ordered to patrole the streets, that they might be at hand to assist the civil magistrates in case of any tumults, riots, or other disorders.

Such were the salutary regulations adopted by those to whom the management of this august ceremony was entrusted, and the measures they pursued were attended with the happiest effects, as no accident of any kind did occur, or at least became known, either during the preparations, or on the day of the coronation.

That auspicious morning at length arrived; and fortunately, though the weather on the preceding days had been unfavourable, the sun now broke forth with a splendour that gave life to the busy scene, and added cheerfulness to the immense multitudes assembled in London and Westminster.

Thousands sat up in the open air all night; and by the dawn of the twenty-second of September, all the scaffoldings were full of spectators. One who was present wrote thus, while the particulars were fresh in his memory.

"First, conceive to yourself the fronts of the houses in all the streets, that could command the least point of view, lined with scaffolding, like so many galleries or boxes, raised one above another, to the very roofs. These were covered with carpets and cloths of different colours, which presented a pleasing variety to the eye: and if you consider the brilliant appearance of the spectators who were seated in them, many of whom were most splendidly dressed, you will easily imagine that this was no indifferent part of the show. The mob underneath

formed also a pretty contrast to the rest of the company. The platform, on account of the uncertainty of the weather, had a shelving roof, which was covered with a kind of sail cloth; but orders being given to roll up this covering, an honest sailor climbed up to the top, and stripped it off; which gave us not only a more extensive view, but let the light in upon every part of the procession. A rank of foot soldiers was placed on each side within the platform; and on the outside were stationed, at proper distances, several parties of horse guards, who somewhat incommoded the people that pressed incessantly upon them, by their prancing and capering; though luckily I did not hear of any serious mischief being done. I must confess it gave me pain to see the soldiers, both horse and foot, most unmercifully belabouring the heads of the mob with their broadswords, bayonets, and muskets; but it was not unpleasant to observe several tipping the horse soldiers with money from time to time, to let them pass between the horses, to get nearer the platform; after which, these unconscionable gentry drove them back again. As soon as it was day-break, we were diverted with seeing the coaches and chairs of the nobility and gentry, passing along with much difficulty; and several persons very richly drest were obliged to quit their carriages, and be escorted by the soldiers through the mob to their respective places.

"Their majesties, to the shame of those be it spoken who were not so punctual, came in their chairs from St. James's, through the park, to Westminster Hall, a little before nine o'clock. The King went into the Prince's chamber, and the Queen into that belonging to the gentleman usher of the black rod. The nobility and others, who were to walk in the procession, were mustered and ranged by the officers of arms, in the Court of Requests, Painted Chamber, and House of Lords, from whence they proceeded into the hall. But notwithstanding the pains taken to have every thing in order, and the time they had to arrange the whole, without confusion or omission, the persons in whose department the business lay committed some curious blunders. Among other articles, they actually forgot the sword of state, the chairs for the King and Queen, and even the canopies, so that as a substitute for the first, they were obliged to borrow the Lord Mayor's sword, and to keep their majesties waiting till matters were put to rights in the hall.

"The processional being at length adjusted, the King and Queen took their respective seats at the upper end of the hall, having before them two tables, for the reception of the regalia; and attended by the lord great chamberlain, the lord high constable, the Earl Marshal, and the officers of state, who first presented to His Majesty four swords and the gold spurs; immediately after which, the hall gate

was thrown open, when the Bishop of Rochester, as Dean of Westminster, and the prebendaries, brought up the Bible, the crown of St. Edward, on a cushion of gold cloth, the orb with the cross, the sceptre with a dove on the top, another sceptre surmounted with a cross, and the staff of St. Edward. The Queen's regalia were brought up at the same time, consisting of the crown upon a cushion, a sceptre with a cross, and an ivory rod with a dove at the top. These being severally laid before their majesties, were afterwards delivered to the persons appointed to bear them in the procession, which set out a little before twelve o'clock, and arrived at the abbey about half past one.

The platform leading to the west door of the abbey was covered with blue baize, for the train to walk on; but there was a defect in not covering the upright posts, which, for the want of it, looked exceedingly mean and naked. But little deficiencies were lost in the magnificence of the scene, the moment the procession emerged, as it were, from the hall; nor was it in the power of words to describe either the varying beauties of the spectacle, or the joy of the assembled multitudes, when their majesties passed, on whose countenances a dignity suited to their station, tempered with the most amiable complacency, was sensibly impressed. It was observable that as they turned the

corner which commanded a view of Westminster bridge, they stopped short to look at the people, the appearance of whom, uncovered, and thick planted on the ground, which rose gradually, might have been compared to a pavement of heads and faces.

Here their majesties were suddenly saluted by a body of sailors, all dressed in blue jackets and white trowsers, who had obtained leave early in the morning to stand in a row close to the platform, on the condition of remaining perfectly quiet during the procession. They complied very faithfully with the terms imposed till the arrival of the King, at the sight of whom their honest feelings broke through all restraint, and they gave three hearty cheers, which were evidently received with great satisfaction, as the homage of truly loyal hearts.

On their majesties entering the abbey, the organ poured forth a swelling peal, and the choir chaunted an appropriate anthem, taken from the hundred and twenty-second psalm, as they passed up to their seats, on the east side of the throne, which was a square platform, with three steps close to the altar. The anthem being ended, the King stood up, and the archbishop made the following recognition four times:

"SIRS,

"Here I present unto you King George the Third, the rightful inheritor of the crown of this realm; wherefore all of you that be come this day to do your homage and service, and bounden duty, be ye willing to do the same?"

This demand was answered each time by loud acclamations of "God save King George the Third;" after which another anthem was sung, taken from the twenty-first psalm. His Majesty then pulled off his cap of state, and kneeling at the altar, offered a pall or altar-cloth of gold, and an ingot of gold of one pound weight. When the King had returned to his seat, Her Majesty arose, and being conducted to the altar, knelt down in like manner, and made her oblation of a pall of gold. The lords who carried the regalia next approached the altar, on which, with due reverence, the several articles were placed in order, and the persons who presented them retired backwards to their seats. While this part of the ceremony was performing, the Bishops of Chester and Chichester read the Litany, which being ended, the archbishop read part of the communion service; and then the Honorable Dr. Drummond, Bishop of Salisbury, preached a sermon from these words: "Because the Lord loved Israel for ever; therefore made he thee King, to do judgment and justice." (1 Kings, x. 9.)

During the sermon, his majesty wore his cap of state, of crimson velvet, turned up with ermine; but when it ended, he went up to the altar uncovered, and there took the coronation oath, which was administered by the archbishop, and subscribed the declaration against popery. He then returned to his seat till the hymn of VENI CREATOR was finished, and then he removed to St. Edward's chair, which was placed in the middle of the sacrarium before the altar. The King being seated, the coronation anthem was sung, after which four knights of the garter, viz. the Duke of Devonshire, the Earls of Northumberland, Hereford, and Waldegrave, held a pall over him during the anointing, which was performed by the archbishop in the following manner. The ribbands of the King's dress being untied, the ampul with the oil was brought by the Dean of Westminster, who having poured the oil into the spoon, the archbishop anointed the King in the form of a cross, on the palms of the hands, the breast, the shoulders, the bend of the arms, and the crown of the head. A prayer was then said, after which the King took his seat; and the places that had been anointed were dried with cotton wool; and, in the mean time, a short anthem was sung by the choir. The spurs were then presented, and His Majesty girt with the sword, after it had been offered on the altar, and redeemed by the lord chamberlain. The

King was then invested with the armilla or stole of cloth of gold put about the neck, and fastened above and beneath the elbows with silk ribbands: then the mantle or open pall was placed over the shoulders, with the imperial or purple robe, and the orb given into his hand. This last, however, on His Majesty's receiving the ring, which was placed on the fourth finger of the right hand by the archbishop, was returned to the altar.

The Marquis of Rockingham, as deputy to the Duke of Norfolk, Lord of the Manor of Worksop, now presented a right hand glove to the King, who having put it on, received from the archbishop the sceptre surmounted with the cross, and afterward that with the dove, which he held in his left hand, his right being occasionally supported by the marquis. When the ceremony of investiture was completed, the archbishop took the crown of St. Edward from the altar, and at about half past three o'clock placed it, with the assistance of his brother prelates, reverently on his majesty's head.

Hitherto the profoundest silence had prevailed; but at this interesting moment, the park and tower guns were fired, by a signal thrown out from the top of the abbey; the trumpets sounded within that venerable pile, and the assembled multitude, as with one voice, shouted "God save the King."

The peers, who till now held their coronets in their hands, put them on, as the bishops and judges did their caps, the representatives of the Dukes of Normandy and Aquitaine their hats, and the kings of arms their crowns. But the most splendid part of this scene arose from the appearance of the Knights of the Bath, whose caps were adorned with large plumes of white feathers, which produced a fine chivalrous appearance.

On the restoration of silence, the archbishop proceeded with the divine service; and after presenting the bible, and pronouncing the benediction, he, together with his brethren, knelt down before the King, who kissed each of them on the cheek. While the choir sung the *Te Deum*, the King was enthroned, and being seated, the archbishops and bishops performed their homage; and then the temporal lords did the same, according to their respective ranks, every peer taking off his coronet, touching the King's crown, and kissing his left cheek.

During the ceremony of homage, medals were thrown about by the treasurer of the household. Those of the Queen had on one side a half length of Her Majesty, and in the exergue this inscription, CHARLOTTE, D. G. M. FR. ET HIBER. REGINA. On the other side Her Majesty at full length, with a seraph placing a crown on her head; and these

words in the exergue, QUÆSITUM MERITIS, "By merit obtained."

The coronation of the King being finished, the Queen removed from her seat on the south side of the area to a chair placed before the altar, where she was anointed with the holy oil, four ladies holding the pall over Her Majesty during the ceremony, after which the archbishop invested her with the ring, and then placed the crown upon her head; at which moment the Princess Augusta, and all the peeresses, put on their coronets. Her Majesty then having received the sceptre with the cross in her right hand, and the ivory rod with the dove in her left, was conducted to her throne.

After this, the King and Queen made another oblation at the altar, preparatory to the holy communion, the awfulness of which was heightened to a most impressive degree by the conduct of the King, who whispered the archbishop, and asked whether it was not customary to lay aside the crown on such an occasion. His grace, surprised at the question, which he could not solve, turned to Bishop Pearce, who knew no more than himself: when His Majesty, concluding that humility best became such an act of devotion, took off his crown, and laid it down during the administration of the sacrament.

At this solemn moment, every eye in that crowded assembly gave manifest indications of the

effect produced by the religious deportment of the two august personages, who were kneeling to receive the sacred symbols; and both of whom, though in the very spring of life, evinced that they were raised above all the pomp and vanity of earthly grandeur. Their behaviour indeed throughout the whole of the long and complicated forms excited universal admiration; and Bishop Newton, who was a near observer, says of the King, that "no actor in the character of Pyrrhus, in the Distressed Mother, not even Booth himself, who was celebrated for it in the Spectator, ever ascended the throne with so much grace and dignity."

The coronation office being performed, their majesties retired into St. Edward's chapel, where they took off their crowns, and delivered them, with the sceptres, to the archbishop, who laid them before the altar. The King then withdrew into the traverse prepared for him upon the western wall of that chapel; the Queen the mean time remaining in her chair of state: but when the King came forth, after changing his coronation dress for a robe of purple velvet, she arose, and both stood before the altar, where the archbishop set the crowns, provided for them to wear during the rest of the solemnity, upon their heads, giving the sceptre with the cross into the King's right hand, and the orb with the cross into his left; as also the sceptre with the cross into the Queen's right hand,

and the ivory rod into her left. The archbishops and bishops then divested themselves of their copes, and proceeded in their usual habits.

The four swords being borne before the King, and the heralds again putting the procession in order, they went out of the church at the west door, the whole returning in the same order as they came, with the exception of the regalia, and the chapter of Westminster.

But all pleasure has an alloy, and the most splendid scenes have their defects, of which the present was an instance, for owing to the delay at the outset, the extraordinary length of the service, and the tedious pauses that intervened between the several parts, it was dark when the procession left the abbey, so that the people who had been waiting its return with great patience for more than six hours, could perceive nothing but a moving line of figures, that looked like the solemn train of a funeral. In the hall, matters were still worse; for though above three thousand wax candles were placed in beautiful chandeliers of cut glass, none of them were suffered to be lighted till the entrance of the King; the consequence of which was, that the assembled crowds in the galleries were unable to distinguish any part of the procession as it came in, except the mere forms of the persons as they descended into the hall, and who were then lost in the general gloom. At length this partial eclipse was sud-

denly dispelled, for the instant His Majesty reached the door, the whole building appeared illuminated, as it were, by enchantment; and they who one moment were murmuring in darkness, broke out the next into raptures at the dazzling glory that burst upon them.

The great diamond in the King's crown fell out while returning to the hall, but it was immediately found and restored. In former times, this would have been accounted ominous.

Their majesties, on their arrival, retired to the court of wards till dinner was announced, when they took their seats in chairs of state, on an elevated platform, at the upper end of the hall, where the courts of chancery and King's Bench stand, but which were then removed.

The Dukes of York and Cumberland sat at one end of the table on the King's right hand, and the Princess Augusta at the other end on the Queen's left hand.

In bringing up the first course, Earl Talbot, as lord steward of the household, rode up from the hall gate to the steps which led to the platform. His lordship, however, gained but little credit by the part which he performed on this occasion; for, according to Lord Orford, in one of his very entertaining letters to Mr. Montague, "The earl piqued himself on backing his horse down the hall, and not turning its rump towards the King; but he had

taken such pains to dress it to that duty, that it entered backwards; and at his retreat, the spectators clapped—a terrible indecorum, but suitable to such Bartholomew Fair doings. He had twenty demelès, but came out of none creditably. He had taken away the table of the Knights of the Bath, and was forced to admit two in their old place, and dine the others in the Court of Requests. Sir William Stanhope said, "We are ill-treated, for *some of us* are gentlemen." Beckford told the earl it was hard to refuse a table to the city of London, whom it would cost ten thousand pounds to banquet the King, and that his lordship would repent it, if they had not a table in the hall; upon which they had one. To the barons of the Cinque Ports, who made the same complaint, he said, "If you come to me as lord steward, I tell you it is impossible; if as Lord Talbot, I am a match for any of you."

Before the second course, the champion was brought up, between the high constable and earl marshal, followed by four pages, and preceded by a herald, who pronounced the challenge: the champion's two esquires, with his lance and target; two serjeants at arms, the trumpets, and the knight marshal, going before to clear the way. This was one of the most pleasing incidents in the ceremony, and it passed off exceedingly well; the champion acting his part admirably, and dashing down his gauntlet with proud defiance. The horse which

he rode was that on which the late king was mounted at the battle of Dettingen; and its head, as well as that of the rider, was adorned with a large plume of red, white, and blue feathers. After the gauntlet had lain some time on the ground, it was taken up by the herald, and re-delivered to the champion, who then made a low obeisance to His Majesty; upon which the cupbearer brought forth a gilt bowl of wine, with a cover, and having presented it to the King, His Majesty drank to the champion, and sent him the bowl by the cupbearer, accompanied with his assistants. By this time, the champion, having received his gauntlet, put it on, and taking the cup with both hands, retired back a little, drank with humble reverence to the King, and then departed, attended as before, taking the bowl and cover with him as his fee.

Immediately after the return of the champion, garter king of arms, attended by all the heralds, proclaimed His Majesty's style in Latin, French, and English, three several times; first upon the top of the steps, near the table; next in the middle of the hall; and lastly at the bottom of the hall.

The second course was then brought up, with the same order and ceremony as the first; and then the several services, which had been allowed by the court of claims appointed for that purpose, were performed.

For the accommodation of the company, double

rows of tables extended down the whole length of the hall, the ladies being placed next to the walls. The sight was most splendid from the galleries, whence many persons of quality, like prisoners, exclaiming, "Pray, remember the poor," let down handkerchiefs tied together, and strings with baskets suspended to them, earnestly requesting some of the good things below, to satisfy their craving appetites after so long an abstinence. The entertainment continued till about ten o'clock, when their majesties retired; but they were pleased to let the peeresses go first, that they might not be incommoded by the pressure of the crowd. When the company broke up, the populace were admitted into the hall, which was presently cleared of all the moveables that could be carried away.

Thus ended this proud day, throughout which both the King and Queen conducted themselves with equal dignity and affability; evidently enjoying the magnificence of the scene in all its parts, and most sensibly affected by the spirit of loyalty that animated, as with one soul, the countless multitudes who were drawn together on the joyful occasion.

The Princess Dowager of Wales, with the younger branches of her family, did not walk in the great procession, but went from the House of Lords across Old Palace Yard, on a platform erected for

that purpose, to the south cross of the abbey, where they had a box to see the coronation, and afterwards dined by themselves, in an apartment adjoining to the hall. In this procession also appeared the three Mahometan embassadors, then at our court, cloathed in the proper dresses of their country.

The correspondence of Horace Walpole supplies some curious information respecting the ceremonies and the company, worth extracting in this place. He says in a letter to the Honorable Henry Seymour Conway: "Of all the incidents of the day, the most diverting was what happened to the Queen. She had a retiring chamber, with all conveniencies, prepared behind the altar. She went thither, and in the *most convenient*—what found she?—but the Duke of Newcastle!—Some of the peeresses were dressed over night, slept in arm-chairs, and were waked if they tumbled their heads.—I carried my Lady Townshend, Lady Hertford, Lady Anne Conolly, my Lady Hervey, and Mrs. Clive, to my deputy's house, at the gate of Westminster Hall. My Lady Townshend said she should be very glad to see a coronation, as she never had seen one. 'Why,' said I, 'Madam, you walked in the last.'—'Yes, child,' said she, 'but I saw nothing of it; I only looked to see who looked at me.'"

In a letter to Mr. George Montague, the same pleasant writer observes: "The multitudes, bal-

conies, guards, and processions, made Palace-Yard the liveliest spectacle in the world: the Hall was the most glorious. The blaze of lights, the richness and variety of habits, the ceremonial, the benches of peers and peeresses, frequent and full, was as awful as a pageant can be; and yet for the King's sake and my own I never wish to see another; nor am impatient to have my Lord Effingham's promise fulfilled. The King complained that so few precedents were kept for their proceedings. Lord Effingham owned the Earl Marshal's office had been strangely neglected; but he had taken such care for the future, that *next coronation* would be regulated in the most exact manner imaginable."

To the Countess of Aylesbury he writes still more pleasantly: "My heraldry was much more offended at the coronation with the ladies that did walk, than with those that walked out of their place; yet I was not so *perilously* angry as my Lady Cowper, who refused to set a foot with my Lady M—; and when she was at last obliged to associate with her, set out on a round trot, as if she designed to prove the antiquity of her family, by marching as lustily as a maid of honour of Queen Gwinevir. It was in truth a brave sight. The sea of heads in Palace-Yard, the guards, horse and foot, the scaffolds, balconies, and procession, exceeded imagination. The hall when once illuminated was noble; but they suffered the whole parade to return

into it in the dark, that His Majesty might be surprised with the quickness with which the sconces catched fire. The champion acted well; the other paladins had neither the grace nor alertness of Rinaldo. Lord Effingham and the Duke of Bedford were but untoward knights-errant; and Lord Talbot had not much more dignity than the figure of General Monk in the abbey. The habit of the peers is unbecoming to the last degree: but the peeresses made amends for all defects. Your daughter Richmond, Lady Kildare, and Lady Pembroke, were as handsome as the graces. Lady Rochford, Lady Holderness, and Lady Lyttleton, looked exceedingly well in that their day; and for those of the days before, the Duchess of Queensberry, Lady Westmorland, and Lady Albemarle, were surprising. Lady Harrington was noble at a distance, and so covered with diamonds, that you would have thought she had bid somebody or other, like Falstaff, 'rob me the exchequer.' Lady Northampton was very magnificent too, and looked prettier than I have seen her of late. Lady Spenser and Lady Bolingbroke were not the worst figures there. The Duchess of Ancaster marched alone, after the Queen, with much majesty; and there were two new Scotch peeresses that pleased every body, Lady Sutherland, and Lady Dunmore. Per contra, were Lady P. who had put a wig on; and old E. who had scratched her's off; Lady S.

the dowager E. and a Lady S. with her tresses coal black, and her hair coal white. Well, it was all delightful, but not half so charming as its being over. The gabble one heard about it for six weeks before, and the fatigue of the day, could not well be compensated by a mere puppet show; for puppet show it was, though it cost a million."

Both the King and Queen felt extremely anxious for the safety of their subjects throughout the whole of this important day; and when it was over, they expressed great satisfaction at finding that not a single accident had occurred, to throw a damp over the remembrance of it.

All over the kingdom there were rejoicings to a degree unprecedented perhaps in the English annals; but the most laudable celebration of this great national festival took place at Gloucester, where, after a sermon preached in the cathedral, by Dr. Tucker, the patriotic dean, a collection was made for the portioning out seven young maidens of good character in marriage.

Three days after the coronation, their majesties visited Covent Garden Theatre, to see the Beggars' Opera, with the performance of which the Queen appeared highly delighted. On this occasion, two magnificent boxes were prepared, one for their majesties, of a cherry coloured velvet, the festoon enriched with silver embroidery, lace, and fringe: in the centre were represented two hymeneal torches,

enclosing a heart, the device MUTUUS ARDOR; the columns were wreathed with lace, and the canopy adorned with tassels, and a crown of excellent workmanship: the whole lined with white satin. The other box, for the princess, was of blue velvet, decorated with gold, and the canopy distinguished with the ensigns of the principality of Wales. The expense of the whole amounted, it was said, to seven hundred pounds. The metropolis was extremely lively at this time, and Horace Walpole, who appears to have taken great interest in the royal amusements, says, "the Queen is so gay that we shall not want sights; she has been at the Opera, the Beggars' Opera, and the Rehearsal, and two nights ago carried the King to Ranelagh." In the last particular, however, he was mistaken; but the Queen was so well pleased with the opera, that she signified her intention of going thither once a-week, and to each of the other theatres almost as regularly during the season, which, of course, produced crowded houses.

Her Majesty was exceedingly partial to the burlettas; but as these were exhibited on Tuesdays, when it was inconvenient for the King to attend, on account of the foreign post, the day of performance was altered to Monday.

The last splendid scene of this year of pageants was the civic feast, to which, according to ancient custom, the new monarch, his queen, and all the

royal family, were invited. Next to the coronation, no spectacle could be more splendid; and fortunately, though the morning was extremely foggy, the weather cleared up about noon: the sun shone out bright, and the remainder of the day proved uncommonly fine. Every house, from Temple Bar to Guildhall, was crowded from top to bottom, and many had scaffoldings, with seats erected outside, for the accommodation of spectators. Most of the fronts were also hung with carpets, or hangings of rich tapestry, which, with the brilliant dresses of the ladies in the windows and balconies, had a very shewy effect.

The royal procession left the palace about twelve o'clock, but did not reach the east end of St. Paul's Church-Yard till near two, when their majesties stopped to hear a speech delivered by the senior grammar scholar of Christ's Hospital, who performed his part with great propriety, and then presented two copies of the address to the King and Queen, who received the same very graciously. From hence they proceeded to the house of Mr. David Barclay, a silk mercer and quaker, opposite to Bow Church, where they waited above four hours, to see the civic procession, which, however, did not enter Cheapside till dark; a circumstance that produced some humorous observations, at the expense of the lord mayor, who, it was said, did

this in imitation of the King's return from the abbey to Westminster Hall.

During the stay of the royal party at Mr. Barclay's, the people both within and without were amply rewarded for their patience, in waiting the arrival of the lord mayor, by the condescending deportment of their sovereign and his amiable consort, who made their appearance frequently at the windows and in the balcony to gratify the public curiosity. But of this visit, the story has been related with such circumstantial simplicity, in a letter written by a married daughter of Mr. Barclay, to a female acquaintance at Warwick, that it would be unjust to attempt an abridgment, and therefore it is here inserted as the same appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine, for December, 1808.

"I fully intended before I received your last packet to make choice of the first opportunity to give you a sketch of the honour we received: and to inform you that the splendour, with every other circumstance relating to the important day, far exceeded the utmost stretch of our imagination; and has left so pleasing an impression, that I am tempted to wish old Time would forget to erase it. To pretend to give a relation of the hurry and fatigue before the arrival of our royal guests, would be the height of folly, since my pen cannot paint one-half; I shall, therefore, proceed to acquaint you, that

about one o'clock papa and mamma, with sister Weston to attend them, took their stands at the street door, where my two brothers had long been, to receive the nobility, above one hundred of whom were then waiting in the warehouse, from which place every appearance of merchandize was removed, and properly decorated for the purpose.

"As the royal family came, they were conducted into one of the counting-houses, which was transformed into a very pretty parlour for that purpose. The newspapers have doubtless informed you of the procession; so I shall only say, that at half past two o'clock their majesties arrived, which was two hours later than they intended; but had you seen the crowd, you would have wondered how they ever got through it. A platform was raised in the street, on which, before their majesties alighted, my brothers spread a carpet; and as soon as they entered, the procession began. The Queen came up first, handed by her chamberlain; the King followed, with the rest of the royal family, agreeable to their rank; the master and mistress of the house, and then the quality. On the second pair of stairs was placed our own company, about forty in number, the chief of whom were of the Puritan order, and all in their orthodox habits. Next the drawing-room door was placed our own selves, I mean my papa's children, for, to the great

mortification of our visitors, none else were allowed to enter the drawing-room; for as kissing the King's hand without kneeling was an honour never before conferred, His Majesty chose to confine that mark of condescension to our own family, as a return for the trouble we had been at upon the occasion.

"But to proceed. After the royal pair had shewn themselves to the populace for a few moments from the balcony, we were all introduced; and you may believe at that juncture we felt no small palpitations.

"His Majesty met us at the door, which was a condescension we did not expect; at which place he saluted us with great politeness; and advancing to the upper end of the room, we performed the ceremony of kissing the Queen's hand, at the sight of whom we were all in raptures, not only from the brilliancy of her appearance, which was pleasing beyond description; but being throughout her whole person possessed of that inexpressible something that is beyond a set of features, and equally claims our attention. To be sure, she has not a fine face, but a most agreeable countenance, and is vastly genteel, with an air, notwithstanding her being a little woman, truly majestic; and I really think by her manner, is expressed that complacency of disposition which is perfectly amiable; and though I could never perceive that she deviated from that

dignity which belongs to a crowned head, yet on the most trifling occasions she displayed all that easy behaviour that elegant negligence can bestow.

"I suppose that you will not think the picture complete, unless the important article of dress be in part communicated: therefore, agreeable to the rules of painting, I shall begin with the head. Her hair, which is of a light colour, hung in what is called coronation ringlets, encompassed with a circle of diamonds, so beautiful in themselves, and so prettily disposed, as will admit of no description: her clothes, which were as rich as gold, silver, and silk, could make them, was a suit from which fell a train, supported by a little page in scarlet and silver. The lustre of her stomacher was inconceivable, being one of the presents she received whilst Princess of Mecklenburg, on which was represented, by the vast profusion of diamonds placed on it, the magnificence attending so great a king, who, I must tell you, I think a very personable man: and the singular marks of honour by him bestowed on us, declare his heart disposed to administer all that pleasure and satisfaction that royalty can give: and nothing could have added to the scene, but that of conversing with the Queen, who inquired if we could talk French for that purpose; and so flattered our vanity, as to tell the lady in waiting, that the greatest mortification she had met with since her arrival in England, was her not being able to con-

verse with us. I doubt not but that the novelty of our appearance raised her curiosity; for amidst such a profusion of glitter, we must look like a parcel of nuns. The same ceremony was performed of kissing the hand with the Princess Dowager, Amelia, Augusta, and the Duke of Cumberland, York, and the other princes, who followed the King's example, in complimenting each of us with a kiss, but not till their majesties had left the room; for, you must know, there were proper apartments fitted up to give the rest of the royal family an opportunity of paying and receiving compliments: and then we were at liberty to go in and out as we pleased: but we could not bear the thoughts of absenting ourselves, while we had one leg to stand on: and the feast prepared for our eyes supplied every other want, or at least rendered us insensible of any.

"As both the doors of the drawing-room were open the whole time, the people without had a very good opportunity of seeing: besides which, the Queen was up stairs three times; and one of these opportunities was made use of for introducing my little darling, with Patty Barclay and Priscilla Bell, who were the only children admitted. At this sight I was so happy as to be present. You may be sure I was not a little anxious on account of my girl, who very unexpectedly remembered all instructions, but kissed the Queen's hand with such a grace, that I thought the Princess Dowager would have smo-

thered her with kisses; and on her return to the drawing-room, such a report was made of her to His Majesty, that Miss was sent for again, when she was so lucky as to afford the King great amusement, in particular by telling him she loved the King, though she must not love fine things; and that her grandpapa would not allow her to make a courtesy. The simplicity of her dress and manner seemed to give great pleasure; and she was dismissed with as great applause as my most boundless wishes could desire. Her sweet face made such an impression on the Duke of York, that I rejoiced she was only five instead of fifteen. When he first met her, which was by accident, he made use of all his eloquence to persuade Miss to give him leave to introduce her to the Queen; but she would by no means consent to go with him, till I informed her that it was no less than a Prince that was making court to her; which she no sooner heard, than her little female heart relented, and she gave him her hand—a true copy of the sex.

"The King, you may observe, never sat down, nor did he taste any thing during the whole time. Her Majesty drank tea, which was brought her on a silver waiter by brother John, who delivered it to the lady in waiting, and she presented it kneeling, which to us, who had never seen that ceremony before, appeared as pretty as any of the parade. The rest of the royal family and nobility repaired to the

place prepared for refreshments. Our kitchen upon this occasion was turned into a tea room, and coffee and chocolate were prepared for above a hundred people, and four females to attend; besides, there was a cold collation of hams, fowls, tongues, hung beef, &c. all served in small plates, for this repast was only designed for a bit by way of staying the stomach. The dressers, after being covered with a fine cloth, were spread with white biscuits, rusks, &c. The floor, like the rest of the apartments, was covered with a carpet. In the decoration of this room, I had like to have lain myself up in the morning. In the little parlour was a dessert of fruits and sweetmeats, and three men servants to wait in the character of valets, for no servants in livery were suffered to appear. Above stairs was the like provision made for our own company, and proper attendants in waiting, for no person that day was to stir from the post they were placed at, to prevent confusion. Through fatigue, mamma was very soon obliged to retire; then sister Weston was declared mistress of the ceremony, and sister Patty her attendant; as for us, we were so happy as to have nothing to do but to converse with the ladies, some of whom were very sociable.

"As they staid till seven, the drawing-room and balcony were illuminated, which added prodigiously to the beauty of the scene. But what charmed us most of all, was their majesties being left with us

by themselves, having sent all away before them, except the two ladies in waiting on the Queen; and, indeed, this has been deemed by the public the greatest mark of respect they could bestow, to trust themselves without so much as a guard in the house, or any of the nobles. The leave they took of us was such as we might expect from our equals; full of apologies for the trouble they had given us, and returning thanks for the entertainment; which they were so careful to have fully explained, that the Queen came up to us as we were all standing on one side the door, and had every word interpreted, and left us in astonishment at her condescension, my brothers attending them to the coach in the same manner they had received them, only with the additional honour of assisting the Queen to get in. Some of us sat up to see them return from the hall, otherwise we should have seen nothing of the grandeur of the procession, as we could not have a view of it as they came, and it was worth our pains. Their majesties thinking it a compliment from us, took great care to return it, by the notice they took of us as they passed. In short, they omitted nothing that could demonstrate respect; an instance of which the King gave, by ordering twenty-four of the life guards, who were drawn up, during His Majesty's stay, in Bow Church-Yard, to be placed opposite our house all night, lest any of the canopy

should be pulled down by the mob, in which there were one hundred yards of silk damask."

It was past six o'clock before the Lord Mayor entered the hall, when dispositions were immediately made for the reception of the royal family, to conduct whom the sheriffs waited at Mr. Barclay's, and a temporary passage was made, leading to the gate, on each side of which stood a line of common councilmen in their gowns, and holding wax lights in their hands.

On the entrance of their majesties, the lord mayor, kneeling, presented the city sword, which being returned, he carried it before the King, the Queen following, with the lady mayoress behind her. Their majesties seemed highly delighted, and returned the various compliments paid to them with great condescension, expressing their admiration at the splendour and magnificence which every where surrounded them.

In the council chamber, the aldermen's ladies and daughters were presented, and had the honour to be saluted by the King, and to kiss the Queen's hand.

It was nine o'clock before the dinner was served to the royal family, who all sat at the same table, without any other company; for though the ladies in waiting upon the Queen had claimed a kind of right, by custom, to dine with Her Majesty, this

was overruled, and they sat at the table of the lady mayoress.

The dishes of the royal table were set on by the seven aldermen of the committee; the lord mayor standing behind the King as chief butler, and the lady mayoress waiting on the Queen in the same capacity, till they were graciously requested by their majesties to retire to their respective tables.

While the second course was serving, the common cryer, standing before the royal table, demanded silence, and then proclaimed aloud, that the King drank to the health and prosperity of the corporation and City of London; adding, that Her Majesty also drank, confirming the same; whereupon the band of music immediately played the march in Judas Maccabæus. The common cryer then came to the lord mayor's table, at the lower end of the hall, and proclaimed, that his lordship, the aldermen, and common council, drank health, long life, and a prosperous reign to our most gracious Sovereign, George the Third; upon which the music played the latter part of Handel's coronation anthem, "God save the King."

The music having ceased, the cryer demanded silence a third time, and proclaimed, that the lord mayor, aldermen, and common council, drank health and long life to our gracious Queen Charlotte, upon which the band played again. The healths of the

rest of the royal family were next drank in order, but not with the same formalities.

After dinner, the royal party withdrew into the council chamber, and while they drank tea, preparations were made in the hall for dancing, the tables being removed from the hustings, and the floor entirely covered with new carpeting. On the return of their majesties, they took their seats under a canopy of state, and the ball was opened with a minuet by the Duke of York and the lady mayoress; after which some others of the royal family danced till about one o'clock, when their majesties retired, the lord mayor with the sword, the sheriffs, and the committee, going before them to the hall gate. At parting, the King and Queen paid particular marks of honour to Sir Samuel Fludyer, the lord mayor, and the lady mayoress; and his majesty said, "that to be elegantly entertained he must come into the city." The Queen's easy, elegant, and condescending behaviour throughout the entertainment delighted the whole company, among whom the expression of every countenance indicated the wish of happiness and length of days to the royal pair.

The streets through which their majesties passed from Guildhall to St. James's were illuminated in the most brilliant manner, so that the return was no less splendid than the procession in the morning.

This grand fête, which cost the corporation near

seven thousand pounds, might be almost said to vie in magnificence with that of the coronation; and one of the foreign ministers designated it very happily as an entertainment fit only for one king to give to another.

A fortnight afterwards, the lord mayor and committee went up to St. James's, by order of the common council, to return thanks for the honour done to the city, and to request that their majesties would sit for their pictures to be placed in the Guildhall.

The King received the committee in a very gracious manner, expressed his entire satisfaction at the late entertainment, and signified his royal intention to give orders that his picture, and that of Her Majesty, should be sent to the city.

The Queen also was pleased to receive the committee with great affability; and such of them as had not before been introduced, were now admitted, to kiss her majesty's hand.

Three days before the city feast, the first parliament called by the authority of His Majesty opened; when in his speech from the throne, the King was pleased to say—"My marriage with a princess, eminently distinguished by every virtue and amiable endowment, whilst it affords me all possible domestic comfort, cannot but highly contribute to the happiness of my kingdom, which has been, and always shall be, my first object in every action of my life."

In addressing the House of Commons, the language of His Majesty was peculiarly tender, and expressive of his feelings. "I dare say, your affectionate regard for me and the Queen," he observed, "makes you go before me in what I am next to mention—the making an adequate and honourable provision for her support, in case she should survive me. This is what not only her royal dignity but her own merit calls for; and I earnestly recommend it to your consideration."

On the sixteenth of November, the speaker, with the whole house, went up to St. James's, with an address of thanks to the King for his speech. At the same time, a deputation of thirteen members waited on the Queen with a message of congratulation on her nuptials, to which Her Majesty returned the following answer.

"I return you my hearty thanks for your affectionate congratulations; and I assure you, the happiness and prosperity of this kingdom will ever be the darling object of my life."

So heartily did the parliament meet the King's wishes, as signified in his speech from the throne, that on the second of the following month, the royal assent was given to the bill for the settlement of the Queen's dower. On this occasion, Sir John Cust, the speaker, when he presented the bill, addressed His Majesty as follows:

" Most gracious Sovereign,

" It has been the first care of your faithful Commons to take into their consideration what your Majesty most affectionately recommended to them from the throne, namely, the enabling your Majesty to make that provision for the Queen, in case she shall survive you, to which her royal dignity and her own merit give her the justest claim.

" On such an occasion, I should ill discharge the trust which has lately been reposed in me by the Commons, and most graciously confirmed by your Majesty, if I omitted to assure you, that they feel the warmest sentiments of gratitude to your Majesty, who have made their happiness, and that of their posterity, your principal object. Of this your Majesty has given abundant proof, by your royal nuptials with a princess, whose illustrious ancestors were early assertors of the civil and religious liberties of mankind, and, in consequence, closely attached to your Majesty's family—a princess, whom the most distinguished virtues and amiable endowments pointed out to your Majesty's choice, and made the partner of the brightest crown in Europe.

" I cannot but esteem it a very singular honour and happiness to myself, that the first bill, which, by command of the Commons, I present to your Majesty, is a bill in which they have, with the greatest zeal and unanimity, endeavoured to testify

their duty to your Majesty, and your royal consort; and that it is no less acceptable to your Majesty than to your Commons, and all whom they represent.

"But, Sir, though they have passed it with the utmost expedition which their forms allow, yet it is matter of real satisfaction to them, that they can entertain the most pleasing and well-founded hope, that it will be a long course of years before it can have any effect. And the domestic happiness of the Queen is so inseparably connected with the public interests of your people, that, on the behalf of Her Majesty, as well as of every subject of your realm, your faithful Commons will never cease to implore the Almighty, that he will be pleased to distinguish this nation by his divine favour and protection, in prolonging your Majesty's happy reign beyond an ordinary date; and that if ever the provision of this bill shall become effectual, it may be lamented only by posterity.

"The bill, Sir, which I have in my hand, is entitled;

"An act for enabling His Majesty to make provision for supporting the dignity of the Queen, in case she shall survive His Majesty;" to which your Commons, with all humility, beseech your Majesty's royal assent."

When the bill had received the royal assent, Her Majesty, who sat on the right hand of the throne,

in a chair of state, rose up, and made her obeisance to the King, agreeable to the custom in such cases.

The provision thus made for Her Majesty in the event of survivorship, was the same as that which had been settled upon the late Queen Caroline, being one hundred thousand pounds a-year, with Richmond Old Park, and Somerset House, annexed.

The concluding part of the speaker's address on this occasion might almost have been considered as prophetic, could the human imagination have transported itself forward beyond half a century, and contemplated the same monarch living, indeed, but secluded from public view, in a state of two-fold blindness, the world forgetting, and by the world forgot. But who at that moment could have supposed that the act then passed would never take effect; and that the personage whom it most interested would in her last moments be deprived of the sight of a countenance which for near sixty years had always been turned towards her with the fondest affection! Thus it is that history brings together at one view all that ministers pleasure to man, and all that tends to humble his vanity:

> The two extremes of life,
> The highest happiness and deepest woe,
> With all the sharp and bitter aggravations
> Of such a vast transition.

A short time before this provisional settlement was enacted, the accustomed patent passed the privy

seal, appropriating forty thousand pounds a-year out of the civil list, for the support of Her Majesty's establishment.

At the close of this year, the King purchased of Sir Charles Herbert Sheffield, for the sum of twenty-one thousand pounds, Buckingham House, which His Majesty presented to the Queen, upon whom, fourteen years afterwards, it was settled by act of parliament, in exchange for her right to Somerset House, then about to be converted into public offices. On making this purchase, their majesties visited the other royal palaces, for the purpose of selecting such articles of furniture and pictures as suited their taste; and in the following spring the house was completed for their reception.

BUCKINGHAM HOUSE.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

CHAPTER V.

Appearance of the British Court.—Studies of the Queen. Royal Amusements.—Public Discontent.—Arrival of the Queen's Brothers.—Birth of the Prince of Wales. Addresses.—Installation at Windsor.—Visit to Eton College.—Preliminaries of Peace.—Poetical Congratulation.

A GENERAL idea prevailed among the nobility, and especially the ladies, that a perpetual round of pleasure would distinguish the new reign, especially as an air of sullen gloom had pervaded the English court for more than twenty years. The youth of their majesties tended to confirm this expectation; and the liveliness of their manner diffused a spirit of gaiety through the whole circle of rank and fashion by which they were surrounded. The levees and drawing-rooms were numerously attended; and all who came from them reported with delight the freedom which they enjoyed in the royal presence. This was the common observation even a few days after the accession, when something like formality and restraint might have been readily excused.

The late Lord Orford, who had seen much of courts, was struck with the change, which he thus described at the time to his friend Montague: "The King himself seems all good-nature, and wishing to satisfy every body: all his speeches are obliging. I saw him again yesterday, and was surprised to find the levee-room had lost so entirely the air of the lion's den. This sovereign don't stand in one spot, with his eyes fixed royally on the ground, and dropping bits of German news: he walks about, and speaks to every body. I saw him afterwards on the throne, where he is graceful and genteel, sits with dignity, and reads his answers to addresses well."

The same courteous and easy demeanour gave life to the royal circles after the coronation; nor was the Queen less cheerful and conversable than His Majesty, on public occasions, with those who understood French, which she spoke with great fluency and propriety. Though she studied English with close assiduity, under the instruction of the Reverend Mr. Majendie, father of the present Bishop of Bangor, she did not venture to hold any discourse in the language till it had become so familiar as to present no difficulty in the choice and arrangement of words. To facilitate her acquisition of the language, His Majesty spent many hours with her, in reading the best authors, and

stopping frequently to explain what he found she did not perfectly comprehend. In this agreeable manner was that time occupied which the gay and giddy would have spent in scenes of dissipation, or in devising new sources of idle enjoyment.

But though their majesties certainly disappointed those who, in the love of vanity, had eagerly anticipated an endless succession of festivities, they did not exclude all pleasure and amusement from the palace. Frequent entertainments were given at court, to select parties; and as the Queen was very fond of dancing, the evening generally ended with a ball, which began at half past six, and lasted till one, when the company broke up, and retired without any supper.

This apparent monotony, however, was not to the taste of the votaries of fashion, who in their spleen ascribed the retiring virtue, which they could neither admire nor imitate, to unworthy motives, as savouring of austerity; while some went still farther, and attributed the secluded state which their majesties observed to the undue influence of the Princess Dowager of Wales, and the ascendency of the Earl of Bute. So fickle is public opinion, that not many months after the arrival of the Queen, the very palace purchased for her accommodation was nicknamed Holyrood House; and murmurings were

heard against the poverty and pride of German connexions.

As Her Majesty's birth-day came within three weeks of that of the king, it was deemed adviseable, for the benefit of trade, and public convenience, to celebrate the former at an earlier period: accordingly, notice was given that the same would be observed on the eighteenth of January following, and ever after on the same day. That day was accordingly kept with great state and splendour at court, the nobility and gentry vying with each other in richness of dress and grandeur of equipage. The following week Her Majesty was gratified by the arrival of her brother, Prince Charles, who was on his route to Portugal, as a volunteer in the service of that kingdom, then at war with the Spaniards. Shortly afterwards, Prince Ernest, and the celebrated Count de Lippe Buckeburg arrived, the latter in his way to Lisbon, accompanied by a great number of persons of distinction from Mecklenburg, whose appearance contributed much to enliven the British court, and to exhilirate the spirits of the Queen.

On the return of Prince Charles from Portugal, he had the satisfaction to find his illustrious relative sustaining the character of a mother, to the inconceivable joy of the whole nation. In the expectation of that important event, the metropolis had

been kept uncommonly full all the summer; and hardly any family of consequence ventured even to a short distance out of town during the heat of the dog-days.

At length, about two o'clock in the morning of Tuesday, the twelfth of August, 1762, Her Majesty, who was then at St. James's, found herself unwell, and at three, notice of it being sent to her royal highness the Princess Dowager of Wales, she arrived within an hour afterwards; and at five, orders were despatched for all the ladies of the bedchamber, the maids of honour, and the great officers of state, to attend: but the Archbishop of Canterbury alone was admitted into the chamber, the others remaining in a room adjoining, from whence a door was left open into the Queen's apartment. So strict, indeed, was the attention paid to delicacy on this occasion, consistent with a due regard to forms, that although Dr. William Hunter was in waiting, the necessary duties were performed by Mrs. Draper; and exactly at twenty-four minutes past seven the heir to the British throne was brought into the world. Information of the happy event being immediately sent to His Majesty, he rewarded the messenger with five hundred pounds. The joyful intelligence was also sent off by expresses in all directions, and announced to the metropolis by the Tower guns, those in the park remaining necessarily silent.

It was considered as a remarkable coincident, that the day on which the prince was born, was, according to the old style, the same with that which placed his family on the throne of these realms: and a circumstance occurred just after the delivery of Her Majesty, which also tended to add joy to the occasion. This was, the entrance of a long train of waggons, laden with the treasure taken on board the Hermione, a Spanish register ship, recently captured by two English frigates. The procession passed under the windows of the palace, from whence the King and the nobility, who were assembled there, viewed the spectacle with pleasure, and cheerfully joined in the acclamations of the sailors and the multitude.

The same day a council was called, when it was ordered that the Archbishop of Canterbury should prepare a form of thanksgiving, and that the name of the Prince of Wales should be inserted in the usual prayers for the family. On the following Sunday these directions were observed in all the churches of the metropolis; and an anthem, composed for the occasion, was sung before His Majesty at the Chapel Royal, which was uncommonly crowded. The baptismal ceremony was performed in the great council chamber, on the evening of the eighth of September, by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The sponsors were the Duke of Cumberland, the Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz,

(his representative being the Duke of Devonshire) and the Princess Dowager of Wales. This solemnity, which in former times was always celebrated with great pomp, was conducted in a much more private manner than could have been expected: nor was Her Majesty present on the occasion, though a royal bed, of great taste and magnificence, had been previously placed in the great drawing-room, which seemed to indicate that she intended to see company.

On the thirteenth of September, Her Majesty went to the Chapel Royal for the first time, when the usual service of thanksgiving after childbirth was read; and an appropriate anthem, composed by Dr. Boyce, was sung by the choir.

For some days after Her Majesty's delivery, the court was very much crowded with visitors, insomuch, that double guards were posted round the palace to keep order.

The ladies who went to see the young prince were admitted into the room, about forty at a time. The cradle in which the royal infant lay, was placed on a small elevation, under a canopy of state. The head and the sides, which came no higher than the bed, were covered with crimson velvet, and lined with white satin. From the head rose an ornament of carved work, gilt, with a coronet in the middle. The upper sheet was

covered with a very broad, beautiful Brussels lace, turning over at the top, upon a magnificent quilt of crimson velvet, and gold lace; the whole breadth of the Brussels lace appearing also along the sides, and hanging down from underneath. Near the cradle sat the nurse, with a small velvet cushion lying on her knee, for the babe to rest on; and on each side stood a fair mute, employed as occasion required, to rock the infant to sleep.

The Queen was sufficiently recovered to accompany the King to Windsor on the twenty-first of the same month, and to be present the next day at the installation of Prince William, afterwards Duke of Gloucester, and the Earl of Bute, as knights of the garter. This being the first installation in that order since the accession of His Majesty, the same was observed with unusual splendour. The appearance of St. George's Hall at the dinner was extremely grand; and the magnificence of this chivalric spectacle could only be equalled by the brilliant display of elegance and beauty at the ball in the evening. This was given in the Grand Armoury; and after several minuets and country dances, the company went to supper about twelve o'clock, in the three state rooms, which were open to all persons who came properly dressed.

On this occasion Her Majesty, who was in uncommon spirits, wore a dress, the richness of which

may be appreciated from the value of the jewels that adorned her person; those of the stomacher being estimated at fifty thousand pounds, and one diamond alone at ten thousand.

In their return to town, the King and Queen stopped to view Eton College, and were met at the outward gates by the provost and fellows, who conducted them into the school. Here they were received by the masters and scholars, amounting to five hundred, standing in their places; between whom their majesties passed up to the chairs placed for them at the upper end; and being seated, the company standing behind them, one of the scholars advanced into the middle of the school, and addressed the King in an English speech, which was honoured with the royal approbation.

After going over different parts of the building, their majesties went into the chapel; and on their entrance the organ played a solemn piece of music, accompanied with other instuments. From thence they passed into the library, where several of the young noblemen were introduced to them: and the valuable collection of drawings belonging to the college being carried into the election chamber, the royal visitors were pleased to spend some time in examining what was most worthy of notice.

On going down from the provost's lodge into the quadrangle, all the scholars were drawn up in several lines, to salute their majesties as they

entered their carriage, with the joyful acclaim of "Vivant Rex et Regina!" At parting, the lord chamberlain, by His Majesty's order, left a handsome present of two hundred and thirty pounds, to be disposed of among the scholars, at the discretion of the provost and masters.

The birth of the prince gave occasion to numerous addresses, in which expression of loyalty the City of London took the lead, and was followed by the universities and most of the corporate bodies in the kingdom. One of the most striking of these complimentary effusions was that of the archbishop, bishops, and clergy of the province of Canterbury.

"We feel," says this venerable convocation, "a very sensible pleasure from the increase of your Majesty's domestic felicity, in the addition of paternal to conjugal tenderness. But our views extend much further; and as we owe to your august house the preservation of every thing dear to us as men and christians, and have found each of your illustrious ancestors faithful guardians of all those distinguished advantages which we enjoy to the height under your Majesty's gracious government, so we trust that Providence hath designed us a pledge of the perpetuity of our happiness, in giving us a prince descended from such progenitors; for we know that his hereditary good disposition will be solicitously strengthened and improved by

the daily instruction and example of his parents, who will complete their merit to these nations, by forming his youthful mind to the love of religion, of liberty, of our civil and ecclesiastical constitution; to a judicious zeal for the prosperity of Great Britain, and a sincere benevolence to mankind in general. May these pleasing labours be successful in the highest degree! May the royal infant grow up in health and strength; become the joy and boast of the public by every valuable attainment; delight your Majesties by the most affectionate duty and gratitude, through an uncommon length of days mercifully granted you; and, born at the dawning of peace, may he see all his life the people of this land reaping the beneficial fruits of it to the utmost!"

To this address, so becoming the order of men by whom it was presented, His Majesty returned an answer, no less feeling and pious, in these words:

"I accept with thanks these new assurances of your regard to the Queen, and see with particular pleasure the expressions of your gratitude to Almighty God for the birth of the prince, my son.

"Your opinion of my fixed intention to educate him in every principle of religious and civil liberty, is truly acceptable to me.

"Be assured, that no endeavour on my part shall be wanting to promote the sacred interests of chris-

tian piety, and of moral virtue, and to transmit to posterity our present most happy constitution."

Nor was the address of the dissenting ministers, in and about London and Westminster, less animated in expressions of respect for the private virtues of the sovereign, while they congratulated him on this addition to his happiness.

"So great an accession to your Majesty's personal and domestic felicity," say they, "inspires us with the warmest joy, and calls for our abundant thankfulness to divine Providence, which, in thus augmenting your private happiness, and that of your most amiable consort, hath added fresh security to the public welfare, and afforded us the pleasing prospect, that the inestimable blessings which the nation derives from your Majesty's wise and gracious government, will be transmitted through your royal descendants to the latest generations.

"If any thing could add to our satisfaction on so delightful an occasion as the birth of an heir-apparent to the imperial crown of Great Britain, it would be the consideration, that his royal highness was born on a day which the protestant dissenters have always commemorated with the highest pleasure, and distinguished by the most ardent gratitude to heaven; a day that introduced your Majesty's family to the throne of these realms, and with it a period of happiness, private and public, civil and

religious, which this country never before enjoyed, and which, we trust in God, will, under your Majesty, and your illustrious successors, be continued and increased.

"It is our united and fervent prayer to the King of Kings, that the life and health of the Prince of Wales may be preserved, and that, by the blessing of the Almighty, on your Majesty's paternal instructions and engaging example, and the tender care of the Queen, his royal highness may grow up to the possession of every amiable and useful accomplishment, so as to become, in his day, the friend of religion and virtue, the patron of genius, learning, and knowledge, the guardian of liberty, the triumph of Britain, and the delight of human kind. And when you, great Sir, shall have arrived to the fulness of years, prosperity, and glory, then, and not till then, may he succeed to the same honours, and reign with equal dignity, happiness, and renown."

Though it be true that congratulatory addresses, like dedicatory epistles, are generally of too ephemeral a description to merit preservation, they are sometimes entitled to particular notice, as marking the character of times and persons. Thus the compliments paid to their majesties, on the birth of the heir-apparent, were all divested of the incense so grateful to young minds, which is a proof that flattery was no acceptable offering at the British

court. In reality, these addresses might almost have been considered as wearing a monitory rather than an adulatory complexion; conveying instructions, in the form of confident anticipation, respecting the education of the present object of national joy.

Such was the language that met with the most gracious reception from a monarch who had but just completed his twenty-fourth year, and whose whole deportment, as well as that of his consort, evinced that sincerity only was welcome to the throne.

Of the academic verses presented to their majesties upon this occasion, the most original, and by far the best, was the poem of Mr. Warton of Oxford, who took for his subject the recent installation at Windsor, which gave him ample scope for a rich display of romantic description, in calling up the chivalrous spirits who fought under the banners of the illustrious founder of the order of the garter. After touching on those times, when "heroic kings frowned on barbed steeds," the poet turned with a prophetic eye to a milder age, and thus apostrophized the castle of Windsor:

Then mourn not, Edward's dome, thine ancient boast,
Thy tournaments and listed combats lost!
From Arthur's board no more, proud castle, mourn
Adventurous valour's Gothic trophies torn.
Those elfin charms, that held in magic night
Its elder fame, and dimm'd its genuine light;

At length dissolve in truth's meredian ray,
And the bright order bursts to purer day.
The mystic round, begirt with bolder peers,
On virtue's base its rescued glory rears;
Sees civil prowess mightier acts achieve,
Sees meek humanity distress relieve;
Adopts the worth that bids the conflict cease,
And claims its honours from the chiefs of peace.'

The last lines were in allusion to the preliminaries of peace, the ratification of which took effect on the twenty-second of November this year, to the entire satisfaction of the King, and all his faithful subjects, who participated in his feelings, rather than in those of the Prussian monarch.

To such a pitch, however, had the spirit of party risen, and so intoxicated were the people by the successes which had recently crowned our arms in North America and the West Indies, that the peace, instead of being hailed as a blessing, was treated with abhorrence as a national disgrace. Ministers were accused of abandoning the King of Prussia, and sacrificing the honour of their country for the gratification of their private interests. Though England had nothing to gain on the continent of Europe, nor any motive at all for the continuance of a war, which had already been prolonged beyond necessity, at an enormous expense, such was the public infatuation, that those men only were re-

garded as patriots, who inveighed most bitterly against government for putting a stop to the effusion of human blood. Even the King did not escape some of the obloquy which the outrageous violence of party poured forth upon this occasion; and, though he was not directly charged with designs hostile to the constitution, his calumniators accused him of having tarnished the dignity of his crown, by signing an inglorious treaty.

Now, when the contemplative observer traces, as from an eminence, the events of the last sixty years, he cannot but feel astonished and mortified at the audacious malevolence of faction, and the credulity of the multitude; the one in fabricating, and the other in believing, the grossest of all fictions, that the terms of the peace were settled by the gold of France. Yet this odious lie, rendered still worse by a particular application to individuals of rank and worth, found greedy auditors, and unprincipled reporters, who circulated it with avidity through every part of the empire. Thus the purest intentions were converted into crimes; measures of general utility were spurned as public injuries; and private character seemed to have lost its influence in repelling the shafts of malice.

One of the profoundest reasoners, and clearest writers this country ever enjoyed, the great Bishop Butler, thought that nations, as well as individuals,

may be occasionally seized with epidemic insanity; and, had he lived to the beginning of the following reign, he might have seen an illustration of his opinion, in the disposition of the people to rush into civil war, because the government had given them the blessing of peace.

CHAPTER VI.

Domestic Happiness amidst public Disquietude.—Firmness of the King.—Acts of Royal Benevolence.—Her Majesty's charitable Institutions.—Remarkable Celebration of the Queen's Birthday, by Miss Chudleigh.—Her Majesty's Fête in Honour of the King and the Peace. Songs on the Occasion.—Birth of the Duke of York.—Marriage of the Princess Augusta to the Prince of Brunswick.—Queen's Present to His Majesty.—Residence at Richmond.—Case of the Palatines.—Zebra presented to Her Majesty.

From the contentions of faction, and the disquietude of the people, it is pleasing to turn to scenes of benevolence, and the spectacle of domestic tranquillity. If the King at this time was mortified by the increasing spirit of opposition, in which some of his own family took an active and leading part, through a preposterous love of war, and predilection for German politics;—if his paternal heart was wounded by the evil constructions put upon those actions, which had for their object the public good;—and if his filial piety was shocked by the basest calumnies circulated against the best of parents; he had within him a consciousness of integrity which enabled him to bear with firmness these severe trials, that multiplied the more in proportion

as he endeavoured to remove discontent, and to inspire confidence. These troubles were enough to have shaken the fortitude of one more experienced in the art of government; and had the young monarch not possessed stability of principle, and a source of comfort, to counteract them, there would have been little to wonder, and less to censure, in his falling under the complicated weight of evils which faction accumulated, to embroil the early part of his reign. But, as it was well observed by one of the periodical writers of the day, "The King sought for domestic happiness in the most amiable of wives; a state alone wherein true pleasure is to be found: and in this instance he not only manifested his affection for his people, by thus strengthening the perpetuity of the Protestant succession, but gave a severe check to celibacy, that most pernicious and fashionable evil, the bane of health, and the canker-worm of society."

The Queen's house was the seat of unembarrassed virtue and tranquil enjoyment, where neither political intrigues, nor scenes of dissipation, were carried on, to excite jealousy, and furnish matter for scandal. The Queen took no side in the jarring conflict of parties, except that of manifesting her gratitude for the restoration of peace, the blessing of which no one could more feelingly estimate than herself, who had been an eye-witness of the dreadful calamities and ruinous consequences of the war.

When, therefore, the preliminaries were ratified,

and Her Majesty saw that her native country would be relieved from misery and oppression, she expressed her thankfulness by a donation to the asylum for female orphans. She also signified her intention of taking under her immediate patronage fifty girls, not under six years of age, the daughters of officers of the army, and a like number, the daughters of naval officers, who had fallen during the late war, leaving their families unprovided for. These objects of the royal benevolence were brought up in every necessary accomplishment, and completely maintained till they attained the age of eighteen years, when they were placed in families of the first respectability, or in other situations of credit, suitable to their inclinations.

This noble design, having fully answered the views of the illustrious projector, was afterwards continued in the establishment of a seminary for a limited number of young ladies of good family, whose parents were in declining circumstances. The institution was formed upon a principle of the greatest liberality, with a house in town, and another in the country. The young ladies were dressed fashionably, but without extravagance; educated in every useful and ornamental branch of knowledge, and properly qualified in every respect to fill the first stations in society.

In these munificent actions, and every other, Her Majesty had the satisfaction to find that she met with the full approbation of the King, who

soon after the peace sent one thousand pounds to the lord mayor of London, to be distributed among the poor, during the winter; and as his German estates had suffered dreadfully by the war, he, of his own accord, remitted all the taxes there for the period of three years.

A remarkable compliment was paid to Her Majesty on her natal day, after the peace, by the Honorable Miss Chudleigh, then one of her maids of honour, and afterwards the celebrated Duchess of Kingston. Of this fête, Horace Walpole gives the following account, in a letter to his friend General Conway:

"Oh, that you had been at her ball the other night! History could never describe it, and keep its countenance. The Queen's real birth-day, you know, is not kept: this maid of honour kept it—nay, while the court is in mourning, expected people to be out of mourning: the Queen's family really was so; Lady Northumberland having desired leave for them. A scaffold was erected in Hyde Park for fire-works. To shew the illuminations without to more advantage, the company were received in an apartment, totally dark, where they remained for two hours. The fire-works were fine, and succeeded well. On each side of the court were two large scaffolds, for the virgin's tradespeople. When the fire-works ceased, a large scene was lighted in the court, representing their

majesties, on each side of which were six obelisks, painted with emblems, and illuminated; mottos beneath in Latin and English: First, for the Prince of Wales, a ship, *Multorum Spes.* Second, for the Princess Dowager, a bird of Paradise, and two little ones, *Meos ad sidera tollo.* Third, Duke of York, a temple, *Virtuti et honori.* Fourth, Princess Augusta, a bird of Paradise, *Non habet parem.* Fifth, the three younger princes, an orange tree, *Promittat et dat.* Sixth, the two younger princesses, the flower crown imperial. I forget the Latin, the translation was silly enough, 'Bashful in youth, graceful in age.' The lady of the house made many apologies for the poorness of the performance, which she said was only oil-paper, painted by one of her servants; but it really was fine and pretty. Behind the house was a cenotaph for the Princess Elizabeth, a kind of illuminated cradle: the motto, 'All the honours the dead can receive.' This burying ground was a strange codicil to a festival; and what was still more strange, about one in the morning, this sarcophagus burst out into crackers and guns. The Margrave of Anspach began the ball with the virgin. The supper was most sumptuous."

Much more pleasing was the manner in which the Queen honoured the birth-day of her august partner this year.

On the fourth of June, in the morning, when

their majesties went to St. James's, the Queen proposed to her royal consort to stay there till Monday, the sixth; with which he complied. Soon after the King's departure from the Queen's house, a great number of persons were immediately in readiness, who worked on that day, and until the Monday, when they had completely finished the most superb pieces of scenery ever exhibited in England. The Queen, in order to draw His Majesty's attention, and to keep him longer at St. James's, desired several ladies to appear at court in their masquerade dresses before they went to the Duke of Richmond's ball; so that by this tender stratagem, His Majesty did not go from St. James's to the Queen's palace till near ten o'clock; when on suddenly throwing back the window shutters, His Majesty was agreeably surprised with the view of a most magnificent temple and bridge, finely illuminated, with about four thousand glass lamps erected in the garden. The painting on the front of the temple represented the King giving peace to all parts of the earth; and at His Majesty's feet were the trophies of the numerous conquests made by Britain; and beneath them were a group of figures, representing Envy, Malice, Detraction, &c. tumbling headlong, like the fallen angels in Milton. In the front of the temple was a magnificent orchestra, with above fifty of the most eminent performers.

What His Majesty must have felt on receiving,

and the Queen in presenting, such a testimony of her love and respect, cannot be expressed nor conceived but by those whose lot it was to perceive it.

Most of the royal family were present; and a cold supper of upwards of one hundred dishes, with an illuminated dessert also, was provided. An ode suited to the occasion was composed by Dr. Boyce, who conducted the orchestra; besides which were sung the following songs:

To peace and love, in courts but seldom seen,
This smiling day has sacred been;
And may they here united reign,
While winter chills, or summer warms the plain!

May she, whose duty is her joy,
Still, still on tasks of love her hours employ,
To chear her King, to charm her friend:
On his and Britain's hope, with pleasure tend.

That lovely, that unfolding rose.
With care to watch, and cherish as he grows;
While, with a mother's soft surprise,
She sees, in him renew'd, his parent rise!

Let harmony reign,
And let pleasure abound,
While in sparkling champaigne
This health goes around:

"The KING!"—may his birth-day successively smile,
With joy on himself, and with peace to his isle!

All white be his moments, and bear on their wing,
In the brightness of summer, the softness of spring!
May she, who bestow'd him on Britain this morn,
Live long, his mild sway to applaud and adorn!
May each royal guest, that around him is seen,
Embrace as a sister, whom love made a Queen.

Then let harmony reign,
Then let pleasure abound;
While in sparkling champaigne
These wishes go round!

The ode performed on this occasion was as follows:

See white rob'd peace from heaven descend,
The wish of nations and the friend.
To glad this day again she visits earth,
The sacred day that gave her patron birth.
Where'er her vernal steps are seen,
The laughing plain is drest in brighter green.
A deeper blush inflames the rose:
With purer light the rising lily glows.
All nature smiles serenely gay,
And hails, with glad applause, this happy day.
Now, mark in that attending train,
The blessings of his future reign.
See his own Thames translucent glide,
Whose floating forests daily ride,
From east to west, from either pole,
Where winds can waft, or waters roll:
See boundless commerce spreads her sail,
And wealth pours in with every gale.

See savage chiefs from wilds unknown,
In kneeling homage at his throne!
And last, to crown the festal morn,
See Love himself the scene adorn.

'Tis he, 'tis LOVE, this heart-felt off'ring brings;
While PEACE, his fair companion, smiles and sings:

I, who from greatness and from pride,
Long hid me in the silent wood,
At last dare in a court reside,
For here the great is truly good:

Then sound each softer note, and sing
The friend of man, a patriot king!
Lo! through the round of Britain's isle,
He gives the sister arts to smile.

See Painting, Sculpture, lift the head,
Renew'd by his benignant eye!
See one her glowing canvas spread,
And one her forming chissel ply.

While, in their emulating strife,
Lost chiefs and sages wake to second life,
With them, behold the gay returning Muse,
Who, in her king, a new Apollo views.

For him expands her wing of fire,
The soul of worth, the sovereign of her song;
Or softly sweeps her tender lyre,
And bids calm days of peace his reign prolong.

Bids health, bids honour, own his gentle sway,
And his whole year be one bright natal day!
He with my gracious olive crown'd,
Diffuses joy the world around;
But from a parent's kindest hand,
Has pour'd it liberal o'er this happy land.

O! be our part,
The grateful heart,
For days of blissful peace again possess'd!
Be this the joy,
That cannot cloy,
The joy supreme, to have made millions blest!

These pieces are not here introduced on account of any peculiar beauty which they possess as poetical compositions, but to shew the extraordinary proficiency the illustrious writer had made in the English language, when she could express her ideas in it, not merely with correctness, but with a harmony of numbers. Not long after this, the same royal pen produced the following song on the King, the sentiments of which performance reflected as much honour upon the heart, as the flowing ease of the versification did upon the genius of the accomplished author.

Genteel is my DAMON, engaging his air;
His face, like the morn, is both ruddy and fair:
Soft love sits enthron'd in the beam of his eyes,
He's manly, yet tender—he's fond, and yet wise.

He's ever good-humour'd, he's gen'rous and gay;
His presence can always drive sorrow away;
No vanity sways him, no folly is seen,
But open his temper, and noble his mien.

By virtue illumin'd, his actions appear,
His passions are calm, and his reason is clear;
An affable sweetness attends on his speech;
He's willing to learn, though he's able to teach.

He has promis'd to love me—his word I'll believe,
For his heart is too honest to let him deceive;
Then blame me, ye fair ones, if justly ye can,
Since the picture I've drawn is exactly the man.

On the sixteenth of August, this year, about ten in the morning, Her Majesty was delivered of another prince at Buckingham House; her royal highness the Princess Dowager of Wales, several lords of the privy council, and the ladies of the bed-chamber, being present. The ceremony of baptism, which took place on the fourteenth of the following month, appears to have been attended with more splendid circumstances than even that of the heir-apparent. At eleven o'clock in the forenoon the Prince of Wales and his brother were brought from the Queen's palace to St. James's, and there shewn to the public through the windows. At twelve, Her Majesty followed, and entered the palace by a

communication opened on purpose to avoid going through the garden, along the wall of which a platform was erected, matted at the bottom, and covered all over with crimson baize. A little after seven in the evening the procession began in this order: the Lady Augusta, led by Prince William; Princess Louisa, by Prince Henry; Princess Caroline Matilda, by Prince Frederick; and the Princess Amelia, led by the Duke of Cumberland; then the nobility according to their rank, who all went into the great council chamber, where a most magnificent state bed was set up for the Queen to sit on; the coverlid, valens, and curtains, which last were made to draw up, being of the richest crimson velvet, adorned with gold fringe, and lined throughout with white satin: but the counterpane was made of lace of inimitable workmanship, and alone cost three thousand seven hundred and eighty pounds. The whole was of English manufacture. The office of baptism was administered by his grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, who christened the royal infant by the name of FREDERICK. The sponsors were the Duke of York, represented by the Earl of Huntingdon, groom of the stole, the Duke of Saxe Gotha, represented by Earl Gower, lord chamberlain; and the Princess Amelia in person. When the ceremony was over, the company, which was extremely brilliant, went into the Queen's apartment, and partook of caudle and cake. Two days

after the christening, Her Majesty, with the two children, returned to her own house, which now became the royal residence, the old palace being no longer used, except for public occasions.

The taste of the Queen in fitting up the interior of the palace excited universal admiration; and large commissions were sent to Italy for the purchase of paintings, antiques, and other curious articles, to enrich this favourite mansion. The Cartoons, which had so long adorned Hampton Court, were removed hither, and put up in the great saloon, the dome and ceiling of which were superbly enriched with various ornaments. But whether this removal was at the desire of Her Majesty, or of the King, is not quite certain. After some years these splendid memorials of Raffaelle's genius were transported to Windsor, but they have since found their way back to the splendid though deserted pile from whence they were originally taken. At the period when Buckingham House became the settled abode of their majesties, when in town, a grand collection of books, drawings, and various works of art of great value, purchased for the King at Venice, were brought over, and deposited in the Queen's Palace, the library of which establishment, next to Her Majesty's domestic concerns, formed a favourite object of her care.

The commencement of the new year was distinguished by great preparations for the union of the

Princess Augusta to the hereditary Prince of Brunswick, which event took place in the great council chamber at St. James's Palace, on the sixteenth of January; after which the new married couple repaired to Leicester House, where they supped with their majesties, the Princess Dowager of Wales, and the other branches of the royal family. On this occasion, the King presented his sister with a diamond necklace, worth thirty thousand pounds; the Queen gave a gold watch of exquisite workmanship, set with jewels; and the Princess Dowager with a diamond stomacher of immense value.

This marriage gave an uncommon brilliancy to the court on the birth-day, the concourse of coaches being so great, that many of the nobility were obliged to get out in St. James's Square, and proceed to the palace in chairs. The ball in the evening was no less numerous and splendid; and what gave peculiar interest to the scene, was the opening of it, by the Prince and Princess of Brunswick.

Two nights afterwards they accompanied their majesties to Covent Garden theatre, to see the new comedy of "No one's enemy but his own;" and so great was the crowd, that the playhouse passages and the piazzas exhibited nothing but one connected living mass; and even the streets were so thronged as to render it difficult for the carriages to get along without accident. So great was the

curiosity of some ladies to see the hereditary prince, that several offered five guineas for a seat in the boxes and were refused. But the pressure at the Opera House on the following Saturday exceeded this to a degree beyond all description. The carriages could not come near the door, on which account many of the nobility were under the necessity of mixing with the throng, which was so great that several ladies were in danger of being crushed to death. All respect for rank and sex was lost; and some gentlemen being imprudent enough to draw their swords, increased the confusion to such a degree, that many persons fainted away, while others, in the struggle to extricate themselves, had their clothes torn from their backs. The crowd was not much less about the palace on the Monday following, when Her Majesty held another drawing-room in honour of the Prince and Princess of Brunswick, who, with the different branches of the royal family, and many of the nobility, were entertained in the evening at the Queen's house, with a grand concert, ball, and supper. This was by way of taking leave of their serene highnesses, who set out for the continent on the ensuing Wednesday, accompanied to the coast by several persons of distinction; so much had the princess endeared herself to all who knew her, by the virtues of her heart, and the uniform sweetness of her manners.

The parting of the King from his sister could

scarcely be more tender than that of the Queen and the princess, between whom the sincerest friendship had subsisted ever since their first interview; and here it merits observation, that though too generally marriage among the great creates a distant formality and reserve in the family circle, Her Majesty had the happy art of conciliating the esteem of every member of the illustrious house into which she had entered. Even the growing love of the King did not make them jealous of her influence; nor when faction was employed in forging calumny from day to day, could its basest tools ever dare to charge the Queen with an improper use of the ascendency which she possessed over the affections of her consort.

Perceiving how suspicious the public were on the subject of patronage, and adverse to the employment of foreigners, she carefully abstained from giving any peculiar encouragement to the natives of Germany. Even her own family received little else than honorary marks of distinction from their illustrious relative. The reigning Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, indeed, was honoured this year with the order of the garter; his brother, Prince Charles, was appointed governor of Zell, and the younger brother, Prince George, after spending some months in England, obtained a commission in the Hanoverian service. Her Majesty made some considerable presents also to several of her rela-

tions and other friends, such as an elegant sword, the hilt of which was gold set with diamonds, to her elder brother, and services of Chelsea china, pictures, and watches, to her sister and the princesses of the family of Schwerin, with whom she continued to maintain a most amicable correspondence.

On the King's birth-day this year, Her Majesty surprised her royal consort by presenting him with the portraits of their children, painted in enamel, and set in a ring ornamented with brilliants, the whole executed by English artists.

Such were the pleasing means which the Queen employed to rivet the bonds of affection round the heart she loved, powerful as the Cestus of old, that could "win the wisest, and the coldest warm."

After the birth-day, Her Majesty left town to reside for the summer at Richmond Lodge, where the two princes caught the hooping-cough; and such was the maternal solicitude of the Queen, that she attended them night and day, the consequence of which was a miscarriage to herself, and a severe, though happily a short illness. The disorder of the children also abated as the summer advanced, and the danger was so far over by the twelfth of August, that an entertainment was then given at the lodge, with a ball for the young nobility, on which occasion more than a thousand lamps were lighted up in the gardens, and some very brilliant fire-works exhibited at night.

Public sympathy was greatly excited this summer by the distressing situation of six hundred Palatines and Wurtzburghers, who arrived in the river from Germany, under a pledge of being conveyed to the Island of St. John, in the Gulph of St. Lawrence, at the expense of an officer, who, however, being unable to carry his speculation into effect, deserted these unhappy victims of his cupidity, after bringing them so far from their native land. Thus abandoned in a strange country, many of the wretched creatures lay about in the fields, exposed to the inclemency of the weather, and totally destitute of food, while about two hundred remained on board the ship which brought them over, on account of their passage not being paid for, and where they of course suffered dreadfully from want and sickness. This melancholy case was made known to the public through the medium of the papers, by the Reverend Dr. Wachsel, minister of the Lutheran chapel in Little Ayliffe Street, Goodman's Fields, who, in his very affecting account, stated the following fact:

"One of the poor women was seized with the pangs of labour in the open fields, and was delivered by the ignorant people about her in the best manner they were able; but from the injury the tender infant received in the operation, it died soon after baptism, and the wretched mother, after receiving the sacrament at my hands, expired, from the want

of proper care and necessaries suitable to her afflicting and truly lamentable condition."

An appeal to British feelings is never made in vain, and no sooner did this picture of human misery come before the public, than the flame of benevolence was kindled on the instant, and diffused itself from heart to heart. Their majesties were not the last on this occasion. The King issued an order to supply the destitute with tents from the Tower, and the passage money of the two hundred who were still confined in the ship was also paid out of his purse, besides which, both he and the Queen set on foot a subscription among the nobility, setting the example themselves by three hundred pounds each. A committee was also formed for the relief of the wretched foreigners; and His Majesty gave personal directions to the ministers that the poor people should be sent to Georgia and South Carolina, and there established with all necessary comforts.

It may seem ludicrous to close this chapter after so touching a narrative, with an exhibition of animals, but biography is necessarily mixed, and we must take our transitions according to the order of time, without considering the description of the events. Among other presents which were made to Her Majesty, a female zebra attracted most notice, and excited considerable amusement. By the royal courtesy, this animal was shown to the people

first in the Mews, and afterwards in the paddock behind Buckingham House, but owing to the rudeness of the populace, the zebra, and an elephant which had been exhibited at the same place, were removed to the menagerie in the Tower. An entertaining French writer, under the assumed character of a Chinese spy, thus exercised his wit on this subject, at the expense of English credulity.

"The Queen's she-ass, at her arrival here, was pestered with visits, and had all her hours employed from morning to night in satisfying the curiosity of the public. She had a centinel and guard placed at the door of her stable. If the Duchess of Modena had come to London, she would have scarcely received such marks of distinction. The crowds that resorted to the Asinine palace were exceeding great. Fame also played its part here, and entertained the public with marvellous accounts of the beautiful tail, the long ears, and the shining tabby skin of this charming beast. As her apartments were not fitted to receive much company, her picture was drawn, to satisfy those who could not have the happiness of approaching her person."

CHAPTER VII.

Gaming prohibited at Court.—Intended Marriage of the Princess Caroline-Matilda.—Distress of the Silk Weavers.—Conduct of the Queen.—Her Encouragement of British Manufactures.—Becomes the Patroness of the Magdalen, and of the Lying-in Charity.—Maternal Solicitude.—Address of the Welch Society to the Prince of Wales.—Illness of the King.—His Recovery, and Speech to the Parliament.—Regency Bill.—Splendid Celebration of the King's Birth-day.—Fête of the Countess of Northumberland.—Anecdote of the Queen.—Delivered of a Prince.—Arrival of the Prince and Princess of Brunswick.—Medal on the Election of the Bishop of Osnabrug.—Birth of Prince William-Henry.—Spirit of Party.—Death of the Duke of Cumberland, and of Prince Frederick-William.—Queen's Birth-day.—Birth of the Princess-Royal.—Death of the Duke of York.—Birth of the Duke of Kent.—Order on Court Mournings.

It had long been a custom at the English court to celebrate Twelfth-day, with religious ceremonials in the morning, and amusements resembling the Roman Saturnalia in the evening. But the worst thing attending the entertainment at night consisted in an indiscriminate allowance of hazard playing throughout the palace; in consequence of which many thousands were lost even in the royal presence. Nothing certainly could be more scanda-

lous on a religious festival, or unbecoming the regal character, than such licensed gambling: and yet the practice had gone on to the present reign, not only without correction, but even without censure. His Majesty, who all his life abhorred gaming, being desirous of getting rid of this abuse, at first restricted the number of tables, then limited the hours of play, and lastly banished hazard altogether from his palaces. After this interdiction, which excited much discontent in the household, cards were substituted; but when it was found that the evil had only changed its name and appearance, and that under the cover of privilege, deep play was still practised at St. James's, by collusion with the domestics, an order was issued that no kind of gaming whatever should be carried on there, under the penalty of expulsion.

At the meeting of parliament on the tenth of January, 1765, His Majesty announced the consent which he had given to a union between his sister, the Princess Caroline-Matilda and the Prince-Royal of Denmark. As, however, the parties were yet in their minority, this ill-fated marriage, though the terms were now settled, did not take effect till two years afterwards.

The distressed state of the weavers in Spital-Fields, at this time, occasioned considerable sensation, and was much felt by the Queen, who did all that lay in her power, by example, and personal

solicitation, to prevail upon the ladies who attended court to lay aside all foreign silks, and wear no article of dress but what was wholly of the manufacture of the country. This patriotic spirit exhibited a striking contrast to the conduct of the principal nobility, who, after the peace, sent large orders to Paris for almost every kind of ornament, when the traders and artisans of their own country were suffering the greatest privations for the want of employment.

Her Majesty was never more delighted than when she had an opportunity of advancing the interests of the kingdom, by encouraging to the utmost of her ability works of native art and industry. Of this an instance occurred when the trustees for improving the manufactures of Scotland transmitted to Colonel Graeme a piece of linen of exquisite workmanship, to be presented to the Queen, who, for obvious reasons, received it at the levee, that it might attract general observation: after which, the colonel was directed to write a letter to the trustees, expressing Her Majesty's wishes for the success of their endeavours to promote the welfare of the country.

In a nation like this, where the power of the Queen consort is necessarily very contracted, and hardly exceeds that of any other head of a great family, such acts ought to be considered as flowing from innate goodness, and not as the result of policy.

From the same pure principle of benevolence, Her Majesty became the patroness of the Magdalen Charity; by which means that institution was enabled to triumph over the prejudices which had been raised against it in the public mind, as one rather calculated to encourage vice than to reclaim the unwary.

That sentiment of considerate benignity also produced at this time an official notification, which was sent to all the regiments of foot guards, and troops of horse, acquainting those soldiers who were lawfully married that their wives should be admitted into the Lying-in Hospital, and that their children should be provided for.

Such, at this early period of her life, were the favourite objects of the Queen, next to the attention she paid to her children, whose opening minds she cultivated with the most sedulous care; not leaving them, as some would have done, to the management of attendants, but indulging herself with their innocent prattle, sharing in their little amusements, and leading them cheerfully into the first paths of knowledge.

This maternal solicitude was not an excess of fondness, which spoils the objects of its regard, but an affectionate concern for the growing improvement, and future welfare of the important charge with which Her Majesty considered herself entrusted. Little incidents frequently elucidate mat-

ters of moment: and how properly the parental duties were discharged at this period might easily have been inferred from the manner in which the Prince of Wales received the stewards of the Society of Ancient Britons on the anniversary of their tutelary saint. After a short complimentary address, in which the gentlemen of the principality expressed their loyalty, and explained the objects of the charity, they concluded with saying: "Your royal parents remember no period of their lives too early for doing good; and when a few years shall call forth your virtues into action, your royal highness may, perhaps, with satisfaction reflect upon your faithful Ancient Britons thus laying themselves at your feet."

To this address the Prince listened with the utmost attention; nor ever once while it was delivered did his eye wander with infantile levity from the persons before him; to whom he replied, with the greatest distinctness and propriety: "Gentlemen, I thank you for this mark of duty to the King, and wish prosperity to this charity."

His Majesty was not present at this interesting scene, having been confined some time by an indisposition, the nature of which was cautiously kept from the public. Conjectures, however, multiplied on the occasion; and it was pretty generally surmised that the seat of the disorder lay in the brain; but no professional reports were then made upon

the subject; nor did the case come under parliamentary observation, though both houses were then sitting.

The trial of the Queen in this exigency was very great; and the more so, as she was far advanced in a state of pregnancy. She continued, however, to go to the Chapel Royal in state, and hold drawing-rooms; by which means no alarm was excited in the nation. The answers to inquiries were favourable; and such information was communicated through the journals as indicated an assurance of a speedy recovery. Meetings of the cabinet, indeed, were held on the occasion; but nothing transpired of their consultations, which was the more surprising, considering the state of parties at that time, and the extreme irritability of the people respecting public affairs.

Things stood in this uncertainty above a month, during which Her Majesty displayed the greatest fortitude, though her private feelings suffered considerably. At length the King was sufficiently recovered to appear at a levee, held on the fifth of April; and on the twenty-fourth of the same month His Majesty went to the House of Peers, where he delivered the following speech from the throne:

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"The tender concern which I feel for my faithful subjects makes me anxious to provide for

every possible event which may affect their future happiness or security.

"My late indisposition, though not attended with danger, has led me to consider the situation in which my kingdoms, and my family, might be left, if it should please God to put a period to my life whilst my successor is of tender years.

"The high importance of this subject to the public safety, good order, and tranquillity; the paternal affection which I bear to my children and to all my people; and my earnest desire that every precaution should be taken which may tend to preserve the constitution of Great Britain undisturbed, and the dignity and lustre of its crown unimpaired, have determined me to lay this weighty business before my parliament. And as my health, by the blessing of God, is now restored, I take the earliest opportunity of meeting you here, and of recommending to your most serious deliberation the making such provision as would be necessary in case any of my children should succeed to the throne before they shall respectively attain the age of eighteen years.

"To this end, I propose to your consideration, whether, under the present circumstances, it will not be expedient to vest in me the power of appointing from time to time, by instruments in writing, under my sign manual, either the Queen, or any other person of my royal family, usually

residing in Great Britain, to be the guardian of the person of such successor, and the regent of these kingdoms, until such successor shall attain the age of eighteen years, subject to the like restrictions and regulations as are specified and contained in an act passed upon a similar occasion, in the twenty-fourth year of the reign of the late king, my royal grandfather; the regent so appointed to be assisted by a council, composed of the several persons, who, by reason of their dignities and offices, are constituted members of the council, established by that act, together with those whom you may think proper to leave to my nomination."

The following day both houses addressed His Majesty, congratulating him on his recovery, and promising to take the particular object suggested to them into their immediate consideration. This was done; but though in the one house a bill passed conformably to the royal proposition, in the other a very fierce opposition took place, respecting the nomination of the person or persons in whom the regency should be vested. By the act referred to in His Majesty's speech, it had been expressly stipulated that the Princess Dowager of Wales should be the guardian of the successor, and regent of the kingdom, in case of a minority on the death of the King and her husband. But such was the spirit of party on the present occasion, that a

violent opposition was set up against even naming the princess dowager at all in the regency bill; and, what was more extraordinary, this omission met with the sanction of ministers, who, in fact, were jealous of her influence.

The regency bill, however, passed both houses, and, on the fifteenth of May, received the royal assent, though it was followed, naturally enough, by a complete disunion between the King and his cabinet ministers, who, beyond all question, had acted in a gross spirit of insult to the royal sensibility, without the shadow of any reason for such a proceeding.

But it deserves observation, that amidst these personal and acrimonious contentions, no reflection was ever made upon the Queen, a sure evidence that she stood perfectly clear of all political intrigues: but what was still more remarkable, at the very time when the princess dowager was so much an object of persecution, her royal highness continued to cherish the tenderest affection for her daughter-in-law, whose sterling virtue formed indeed the universal theme of admiration.

The birth-day of His Majesty was kept this year in a manner that must have given great satisfaction to his feelings, and to those of the Queen, for the court was attended by a most numerous assemblage; and all who appeared there made it a point to wear dresses of English manufacture. Among the ladies, the Countess of Northumberland drew the princi-

pal attention, the jewels which she wore on the joyful occasion being estimated at the value of one hundred and fifty thousand pounds.

Painted silks, the production of Spital Fields, were the prevailing fashion; and one young lady of exquisite beauty appeared to such advantage, as to give rise to the following lines, which were ascribed to no less a person than the Queen.

> STELLA's gay robe with so much art was fram'd,
> That Flora the invention might have claim'd:
> So fair was STELLA's face, so bright her eyes,
> She seem'd that goddess in a sweet disguise.

Many houses in the great squares and public streets were illuminated at night; and fire-works were exhibited, with two lofty pyramids of lamps, upon Tower Hill. The French ambassador, Count de Guerchy, outrivalled even the English nobility on this occasion, for the entire front of his house in Soho Square was covered with lamps, tastefully disposed, and producing a most beautiful effect.

On the following day His Majesty's ministers gave very grand entertainments; but the assembly of the Countess of Northumberland attracted the greatest share of public observation. The extensive gardens were illuminated throughout in the forms of triumphal arches, pyramids, and columns, resembling spiral flames, dispersed among

the trees. In the centre of the lawn was a magnificent temple, ornamented with transparent paintings; and three large bands of music were so judiciously disposed in different parts of the gardens as to preserve perfect harmony.

The Queen had a great esteem for this countess, who was no less attached to Her Majesty, which she evinced in a splendid festival given to Prince Ernest of Mecklenburg. Of this entertainment, Horace Walpole says in one of his letters:—

"Not only the whole house, but the garden was illuminated, and was quite a fairy scene. Arches and pyramids of lights alternately surrounded the enclosure. A diamond necklace of lamps edged the rails and descent, with a spiral obelisk of candles on each hand; and dispersed over the lawn were little bands of kettle-drums, clarionets, fifes, &c. and the lovely moon, who came without a card."

At one of the levees this summer, a pleasing instance occurred of royal urbanity. As Her Majesty was passing to the drawing-room, she observed a group of seven young female quakers, whom curiosity had drawn to court on that day, chiefly to see the Queen, who no sooner beheld them, than she stopped, made an inclination of her head, and directed the lady in waiting to compliment the strangers in her name, as well as to shew them every attention during their stay. These perhaps are tri-

ties, but it is in such slight incidents that the mind is discerned, and from them may the true character be accurately ascertained.

Much of Her Majesty's time was now employed on the internal improvements of her palace, and particularly in fitting up the library, which, besides the addition of Queen Caroline's collection, was enriched with above two thousand of the most valuable books in different languages. Several fine paintings were also procured from abroad, and a complete series of family portraits was sent over by the reigning Duke of Mecklenburg. While the Queen was thus employed at her residence in town, the two children remained at Kew, where the birth-day of the eldest prince was celebrated this year by an entertainment given to the young nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood, in the presence of their majesties. The same day her royal highness the Princess Dowager of Wales held a public levee on the occasion in town; and the circumstance is here mentioned, as shewing the cordiality that subsisted between the heads of this illustrious house at that time, and how careful the King and Queen were to see that all honour should be paid to their august relative, when the most infamous libels were spread about the town, to the injury of an excellent woman, of whom it might be said:—

> No might nor greatness in mortality
> Can censure 'scape. Back-wounding calumny
> The whitest virtue strikes.

The birth-day of Prince Frederick this year was also attended with a peculiar circumstance, there being distributed on the occasion four thousand gold and silver medals, in commemoration of the election of his royal highness to the episcopal principality of Osnabrug. The medal, which was executed by Thomas Pingo, represents on one side the figure of Hope resting on a shield, bearing the arms and crown of the royal bishop, and on a pedestal are the mitre, crozier, and sword; the motto, SPES PUBLICA—"the hope of the nation." On the reverse is the following inscription;—

FREDERICUS M. BRIT. PR. EPISCOPUS.
OSNABRUG, D. BR. ET LUN.
ANNUENTE
GEORGIO TERTIO,
M. BRIT. FR. H. R. F. D.
D. BRUNSV. ET LUNEB.
S. R. I. A. ET ELECT.
PATRE. ET REGE. OPT.
POSTULATUS EPISC.
XXVII. FEBRUARII,
MDCCLXIV.

It may be proper here, in the way of explanation, to observe, that this bishoprie, by the treaty of Westphalia, in the year 1648, was so regulated as to be held alternately by the Lutheran and Roman Catholic interests; but in consequence of the many

valuable and important sacrifices which the house of Brunswick had made for the sake of a general peace, it was expressly stipulated, that the Protestant nomination should always be in favour of one of the younger branches of the family of Brunswick Lunenburg.

On the twenty-first of August, 1765, between two and three in the morning, Her Majesty was taken in labour at her palace; and a message being despatched for her royal highness the princess dowager, she repaired thither instantly, as also did the Archbishop of Canterbury and the great officers of the crown. At a quarter before four Her Majesty was delivered of another prince; which event was announced to the public by the firing of the tower guns, and at night there were several illuminations. Observers on this occasion could not help remarking how auspicious the month of August had been to the house of Brunswick; George the First having succeeded to the throne of these realms on the first of August, 1714: August the eleventh, 1737, her royal highness Princess Augusta was born: August the first, 1759, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick gained the victory of Minden: August the twelfth, 1762, gave an heir-apparent to the British throne: August the sixteenth, 1763, Prince Frederick was born; and now, on the twenty-first of the same month, their majesties were favoured with a third son.

But such coincidences, curious as they may

appear on a retrospective view, prove nothing, as the chances of similar events happening on the same point of time are often favoured by natural circumstances, and predisposing causes. An attention to fortunate days, however, constitutes one of the fragments of ancient superstition, which reason and revelation have hardly yet entirely obliterated. When Cromwell died, a tremendous tempest arose, which the friends and enemies of the usurper interpreted according to their respective prejudices; but what his admirers, who were believers in predestination, dwelt upon most was, that the day of his death happened to be the anniversary of all the great achievements of his memorable life.

The new prince was baptized at St. James's on the evening of the eighteenth of September, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the presence of their majesties, the whole royal family, and a very illustrious assembly of English and foreign nobility. The royal infant received the name of William-Henry; and the sponsors were the Duke of Cumberland, and the hereditary Prince and Princess of Brunswick; both of whom had but recently arrived in England. There were bonfires lighted up on the occasion; and large quantities of liquor were distributed among the populace.

The next day a grand drawing-room was held at St. James's, to compliment the Queen on her first appearance at court: and the Prince of Wales being

present, with his royal brother, their majesties were so condescending as to appear with them at the windows of the palace for a considerable time, to the gratification of numerous spectators.

Of the state of party spirit at the time of this addition to the royal family, some idea may be formed from the conclusion of the city address to His Majesty on a circumstance, which, of all others, it might have been reasonably supposed, was the very last to draw forth political spleen. But the good citizens of London could not let even this occasion pass, without mixing some of the wormwood of discontent in their offering of congratulation. After a few hackneyed compliments, expressed in vulgar phrase, these enlightened advisers of the King told him, that "whenever a happy establishment of public measures should present a favourable occasion, they would be ready to exert their utmost abilities in support of such wise councils as apparently tended to render His Majesty's reign happy and glorious."

In plain English, this was saying that they would regulate their obedience by the conformableness of the King to the directions which they, in their consummate wisdom, should suggest for his government. The court of common-council, however, did not escape with impunity; for the indecency of their conduct, and the absurdity of their language, brought upon them a torrent of wit, which exposed

them to general ridicule. One anonymous writer thus addressed them: "I know not how it is, the city of London, like our modern herd of poets, of late appear to think that any language is good enough for their sovereign. Our ingenious bards, so they string together half a dozen complimentary stanzas on the birth of a prince, never trouble their heads either about the sense or the application: any sort of poetry is well enough for kings and queens; and if the delightful compositions are not favourably received at court, why let the court go without congratulations. In like manner, the gentlemen of the common-council, so they offer an address, give themselves no concern whatsoever about the propriety either of the sentiment or the diction. If it is calculated to please, good; if not, why let it go. They are accustomed to speak their minds to their sovereign; and he must bear the indelicacy of a paragraph that would be thought highly culpable in an advertisement for the office of bridge-master, or the still more humble avocation of an ale-conner."

The sudden death of the Emperor of Germany this year greatly affected the Queen, who wrote a very pathetic letter of condolence to the dowager empress, Maria-Theresa; and the King sent another at the same time, written with his own hand, to the son and successor of the deceased monarch. Little, however, did their majesties think that a similar event

would soon occur in their own family. This was the death of the Duke of Cumberland, which happened about eight o'clock in the evening, on the thirty-first of October: and the shock was the greater, as the same afternoon his royal highness had been at court, apparently in good health and spirits: from thence he went and dined with Lord Albemarle in Arlington Street; then drank tea with the Princess of Brunswick at St. James's; and returned to his house in Upper Grosvenor Street about seven, to assist at a council, which was appointed to be held there the same evening. He had been at home but a few minutes, when he complained of a shivering fit; and almost as soon as Sir Clifford Wintringham, the King's physician, arrived, he fell breathless on the sofa. The duke, who was extremely corpulent, a little time before his death earnestly advised His Majesty not only to use considerable exercise, but to impose upon himself a strict course of regimen, as the only effectual means of preventing obesity, and attaining a good old age. This counsel made a strong impression upon the mind of the King, who from that time became very abstemious in his mode of living, and never, for a period of more than half a century, has he been once known to indulge in the pleasures of the table.

The death of the Duke of Cumberland was very much lamented by the nation, on account of his personal good qualities, and the popularity which

he had acquired in extinguishing the rebellion. His political opinions and connexions were not in unison with those of the King, who, however, on this occasion evinced the magnanimity of his mind; for when the Earl of Albemarle, the duke's executor, waited upon his Majesty with the key of the cabinet containing the papers of the deceased prince, it was immediately returned, with a request that the noble lord would destroy such papers as in his judgment the duke himself would have done, and to preserve those only which he imagined might be of public service.

This melancholy event was quickly followed by another, in the death of His Majesty's fourth brother, Prince Frederick-William, at the age of fifteen years, after a severe illness of fourteen months duration. He had been tapped in the course of the summer, but the relief afforded by the operation was merely momentary; the disorder returned with aggravated symptoms, baffling all medical skill, and he expired on Sunday afternoon, December the twenty-ninth, at the house of the princess dowager, The character given of him was that of "a prince ever to be regretted by those who had the honour to approach him, and ever to be proposed as a pattern of patience, meekness, and fortitude. The gracefulness of his person, great as it appeared, gave but an imperfect idea of the exalted qualities of his mind. His submis-

sion to the decrees of providence, his affection and dutiful behaviour to his royal mother, to the King, and to the rest of his illustrious family, were ever uniform and exemplary. His manly sense and uncommon penetration exceeded even the most sanguine hopes of those who were entrusted with his education. During his long and painful illness, his chief and only care was not to give pain to others: he not only lessened but even concealed his own sufferings before them, and was wholly employed in giving them comfort; which attention extended itself even to the lowest of his domestic servants."

The remains of this excellent prince and those of his royal uncle were interred with great solemnity in the chapel of Henry the Seventh in Westminster Abbey.

In consequence of these breaches in the family, the celebration of Her Majesty's birth-day was postponed to the twentieth of February, 1766, when the same was observed with peculiar splendour; but the notice of the circumstance is not otherwise of moment, than for the fact that not a single person appeared at court, except foreigners, in any other dress than the manufacture of Great Britain; and it was said that some of the silks worn on that occasion were so richly wrought as to have cost thirty-six pounds a yard in Spital Fields.

All this was truly to the honour of their majesties, whose exertions in behalf of the trade of the coun-

try were unremitted: and it was solely owing to them that a bill passed this session of parliament, prohibiting the importation of all foreign silks and velvets, for a limited period, under severe penalties.

The week after the birth-day the two elder princes were inoculated at the Queen's palace, in the presence of their majesties. The operation was performed by Pennel Hawkins, surgeon extraordinary to the King, under the direction of his father, the late Cæsar Hawkins, Sir Clifford Wintringham, Sir William Duncan, and Sir John Pringle.

This was an incident of no slight consequence at that time, when the prejudices against inoculation ran high, and people were even told from the pulpit by one of the most zealous preachers in London, that it was presumptuous to offer prayers for the Prince of Wales, who was now taken out of the hands of God, and committed to the hands of men.

But their majesties were both of them superior to the narrow notions which prevailed on the subject of a most valuable discovery; and they evinced as much parental affection as patriotism, in thus countenancing, by their example, a practice, that not only tended to abridge the catalogue of human miseries, but led the way to the only effectual means of exterminating the most deadly enemy of population.

On the first of September the unfortunate Caroline-Matilda was espoused at St. James's, her brother,

the Duke of York, being the proxy for the King of Denmark, and the next morning early she set off from Carleton House for Harwich. The parting scene between the young queen and her mother was described by those who saw it as of the most distressing nature; and this indeed was evident to the spectators in Pall-Mall, who were so moved by the weeping countenance of this blooming sacrifice to an ill-judging policy, that, in a spirit of genuine sympathy, they suffered her to depart, without afflicting her more by their boisterous acclamations.

On the twenty-ninth of the same month the Queen was happily delivered of her first daughter, an event which gave great pleasure to the royal family and the nation. The court was crowded with visitors to pay their compliments on this joyful occasion, but the old ceremony of giving cake and caudle at the palace of St. James's had nearly proved disastrous to many females. Before the doors were opened, at five o'clock, thousands had assembled; and the rush for admittance was so violent, that some well dressed women were nearly killed by the pressure. The yeomen of the guard, after letting in the foremost, were obliged to make use of their battle axes to keep back the rest; and having succeeded with difficulty in clearing the entrance, they suddenly shut the gates upon the multitude without, who vented the bitterest complaints on the inhospitality with which they were treated.

The christening of the royal infant took place on the twenty-seventh of the following month, when she was named Charlotte-Augusta-Matilda, the sponsors being the King of Denmark, represented by the Duke of Portland; the Queen of Denmark, represented by the Countess of Effingham; and the Princess Louisa-Anne in person.

Information of the pleasing addition to the royal family of Great Britain was despatched immediately by a special messenger to the court of Strelitz, where the intelligence produced very lively demonstrations of joy, for so much was Her Majesty beloved in the place of her nativity, that the people always manifested a tender solicitude for her welfare, whenever became known that she was in a state of pregnancy. At this time Dr. Nugent was present there, having been sent over by the Queen herself to collect materials for the completion of the "History of Vandalia," the first volume of which he had already published. According to his account, the people throughout Mecklenburg spoke in raptures of the endearing affability of the Queen, while they who had been most intimately acquainted with her were no less loud in praise of her intrinsic virtues and pre-eminent talents.

On the seventeenth of September, 1767, died his royal highness Edward-Augustus, Duke of York, while on his travels in Italy. He was the next brother to the King, and much beloved by the nation

for the pleasantness of his manners, and the liberality of his disposition. He also possessed quick parts, which he had considerably improved by reading and observation.

Travelling was his great delight; and he made himself very popular wherever he came. At Monaco, where he died of a malignant fever after fourteen days illness, the greatest honours were paid to his remains, which lay in state, till removed to the ship that conveyed the coffin to England for interment in the royal vault in Westminster Abbey.

In the preceding year, this amiable prince travelled through several parts of the kingdom; and at Bristol he was entertained by Bishop Newton, who, in his very entertaining memoirs, says—"that all the company were surprised and delighted with the pertinence and propriety of the duke's questions and discourse concerning the trade and commerce of the place. Dr. Lyttleton, Bishop of Carlisle, being one of the company, some mention was made of his brother's history of Henry the Second, which was then in the press; and the Duke of York observed upon it, that he was sorry Lord Lyttleton recurred back to so remote a period: he wished, that instead of writing the history of the life and reign of Henry the Second, he had written the history of the life and reign of George the Second. One memorable the duke related of himself, and that was, when he was upon his travels, his practice was

to rise early every morning, and then to recollect and set down in writing all the transactions and occurrences of the preceding day, so that by turning to his diary he could presently find where he had been, and what he had seen, and with whom he had conversed such an hour."

On the second of November, this year, the family received a further increase in the birth of a prince at the Queen's House in St. James's Park; and on the thirteenth of the same month his royal highness was baptized by the name of Edward: the sponsors were the hereditary Prince of Brunswick, represented by the Earl of Hertford; Prince Charles of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, represented by the Earl of Huntingdon; and the Landgravine of Hesse Cassel, represented by the Duchess of Hamilton.

The mixed address of congratulation and condolence which the city of London sent up to the throne, on the two events that had recently occurred in the royal family, formed so complete a contrast to that of the preceding year, on the birth of the princess, as to draw from His Majesty this very remarkable answer:

"I thank you for this loyal address, and for the satisfaction you express in the increase of my family: these expressions of your zealous attachment cannot but be agreeable to me. The religion and liberties of my people always have

been, and ever shall be, the constant objects of my care and attention; and I shall esteem it one of my first duties to instil the same principles into those who may succeed me.

"I regard your condolence, on the melancholy event of the Duke of York's death, as an additional proof of your attachment to me and my family; and I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks for it."

The solicitude of His Majesty for the general welfare of his people was evinced at this time in a resolution taken by him to abridge the period allotted for the ceremonial of public mourning. His attention was drawn to this by the inconvenience of three court mournings at the same time, one of a national concern for the Duke of York, and two others for foreign princesses. Sensible how detrimental this must be to trade, the King spontaneously caused an order to be issued from the chamberlain's office, that for the future all court and general mournings should be shortened to one-half of the time which had been hitherto observed.

For this act of paternal consideration, His Majesty received the thanks of the great body of manufacturers and traders of London in an address, presented by the lord-mayor and aldermen. A separate address on the same occasion was also carried up to St. James's by the weavers of Spital Fields, whose appearance in procession, with variegated

banners and streamers emblematic of their business, had a very pleasing effect.

Their address concluded in the following complimentary terms to the Queen, which must have been peculiarly gratifying to the feelings of the monarch.

"At the same time," said they, "that we offer up our tribute of thanks to your majesty, we should think ourselves very ungrateful to your majesty's royal consort, if we did not humbly express our sense of the great obligations we lie under to Her Majesty, for her generous patronage and encouragement of our silk manufacture: and we are bound to make the same acknowledgment to the rest of the royal family, for the distinguished preference they give to the wrought silks of this kingdom."

CHAPTER VIII.

Fire in the Queen's Nursery.—Death of the Princess Louisa-Anne.—Arrival of the King of Denmark.—Entertainment at the Queen's Palace.—Masked Ball.—Birth of the Princess Augusta.—City Address.—Violence of Party.—Royal Fortitude.—Exemplary Virtue.—Drawing-room of the Princes.—Supper and Ball.—Inflammatory Conduct of the Lord-Mayor.—Birth of Princess Elizabeth.—Verses to the King.—Princess Dowager quits the Kingdom, but returns.—Anecdote of the Queen.—Household of the Prince of Wales.——Lord Chesterfield's Character of the Queen.—Birth of Prince Ernest-Augustus.—Robbery of the Queen's Palace.—Extraordinary Impostor.

On the nineteenth of February, 1768, an alarming fire broke out in the nursery at the Queen's palace, but fortunately it was discovered in sufficient time to prevent any serious damage, though it must have been smothering some days, as the joists were actually burnt to a coal. This accident very much agitated their majesties, who were at this time resident in town, under considerable uneasiness about the Princess Louisa-Anne, the King's sister. Her royal highness had been for some months troubled with a hectic cough, which at length put on the appearance of a rapid consumption, that baffled all me-

dical assistance, and carried her off, to the inexpressible grief of the whole family, on the thirteenth of May, in the twentieth year of her age.

The gloom occasioned by these successive breaches in the royal house was somewhat dissipated in the course of the summer, by the arrival of the young King of Denmark, whose propensity to travelling induced him to leave his country for a tour in Germany and France, from whence he came over, rather unexpectedly, to England. Here he remained above two months, during which he abundantly gratified the curiosity of the public by the exhibition of his person, which Horace Walpole thus describes: "I came to town to see the Danish king. He is as diminutive as if he came out of a kernel in the Fairy Tales. He is not ill made, nor weakly made, though so small: and though his face is pale and delicate, it is not at all ugly, yet has a strong cast of the late King, and enough of the late Prince of Wales, to put one upon one's guard not to be prejudiced in his favour. Still he has more royalty than folly in his air; and considering he is not twenty, is as well as one expects any king in a puppet-show to be. He arrived on Thursday, supped and lay at St. James's. Yesterday evening (the twelfth) he was at the Queen's and Carlton House, and at night at Lady Hertford's assembly. He only takes the title of Altesse, an absurd mezzotermine, but acts the king exceedingly; struts in the circle

like a cock-sparrow, and does the honours of himself very civilly."

On the nineteenth of September the illustrious traveller was entertained at the Queen's palace, with a grand supper and ball, at which were present the Princess Dowager of Wales, with the rest of the royal family, besides numbers of the nobility and foreign ministers. Every thing was conducted on a scale of splendid magnificence, suited to the occasion; and the company, by a very unusual indulgence, maintained their festivity till four in the morning. A fortnight afterwards the Danish monarch gave a grand masked ball to the nobility and gentry, at the Opera House, which was entirely filled at his expense, and every kind of luxury was provided for the numerous assembly. The Queen, however, did not even go thither as a spectator, having a radical aversion to that species of amusement; but the King's two brothers were there, and the Princess Amelia. His Majesty, from curiosity, and a wish to oblige his new relative, went in a most private manner, and sat some time in an inclosed box, with shutters, which enabled him to take a view of all that passed, without being seen.

On the eighth of November this year the royal family received a farther addition in the birth of another princess, to whom was given the name of Augusta. In congratulating His Majesty on this occasion, the corporation of London professed the

warmest loyalty, unmixed with the slightest allusion to the political ferment which then prevailed. This change in their language the King could not but notice, and his reply marked the satisfaction which it afforded him.

"I receive," said he, "with the greatest pleasure, this dutiful and affectionate address: and return you my hearty thanks for your congratulations on the happy delivery of the Queen, and the birth of the princess, as well as for the repeated assurances you give me of your loyalty, and attachment to my person and family."

The following year was remarkable for the perturbed state of the public mind, owing to the arts of political incendiaries, whose libels were but too successful in blowing up the flames of sedition almost to the height of rebellion. But while the friends of government trembled for the throne, the King maintained his seat with firmness, repelling the insults which were offered to his face with silent dignity: and even when the furious rabble, instigated by the firebrands of misrule, committed the most violent outrages before the gates of the palace, the fortitude of His Majesty never once forsook him; nor could the menaces of faction shake the resolution which he had formed of living and dying with the laws and the constitution.

To suppose that the King did not suffer inwardly amidst the tempest that surrounded him, the ca-

lumnies which were daily poured forth against the purity of his motives, and the probable dangers to which the nation was exposed, by the audacious efforts of pretended patriots, would be doing the greatest wrong to his principles and his feelings. By the former, however, he preserved the country, while the latter made him tender towards his enemies, and compassionate to the people who were deluded by their artifices.

In the bosom of his family, the King found relief under the evils that oppressed him; and his richest consolation, next to that derived from the consciousness of the rectitude of his intentions, lay in the virtues of his august consort, whose conversation calmed his spirits when agitated with the cares of royalty, and whose fertile mind was continually exercised in devising pleasing expedients to divert his thoughts when he was in a state of anxiety. Among other ingenious schemes which Her Majesty adopted at this period, was that of causing a drawing-room to be held by the Prince of Wales and the Princess-Royal. The novelty of the thing was attractive; and the spectacle itself was calculated, if any sight could produce such an effect, to soften the malignant faction, and to make the people ashamed of their own credulity, in yielding to the machinations of unprincipled demagogues.

This drawing-room took place on the twenty-fifth

of October, 1769, the day of His Majesty's accession, and was held in the late Princess Amelia's apartments at St. James's. The Prince of Wales was dressed in scarlet and gold, with the ensigns of the Order of the Garter: on his right was Prince Frederick, Bishop of Osnabrug, in blue and gold, with the ensigns of the Order of the Bath: next to him, on a rich sofa, sat the princess-royal, with the two younger princes at her right hand, elegantly clothed in Roman togas.

The appearance of so many fine children excited the most lively sensibility in the company; but the sight was rendered still more delightful by the very graceful manner in which the Prince and his sister conducted themselves toward the elegant assemblage by whom they were surrounded.

With a similar intention of allaying the infuriated passions of the people, the Prince was again brought forward to public notice, in a ball and supper given by him at the Queen's palace on the nineteenth of March, in the following year. But, as if on purpose to counteract the impression likely to be made by these pleasing acts of courtesy, Beckford, the lord-mayor, who ruled predominant in the city, gave a sumptuous entertainment at the Mansion House to the friends of Wilkes, and all who were active on the side of opposition. This audacious proceeding, to call it by no worse a name, added oil

to the flame of faction; and several persons in the metropolis, of known loyalty, had their windows demolished by the mob.

Among the objects of the popular rage, Mr. David Barclay, in Cheapside, was marked out in a manner so very particular, as plainly shewed that the rabble, thus collected by the folly, or something worse, of the lord-mayor, were actuated by a spirit ripe for rebellion, since nothing in Mr. Barclay's conduct could have induced such outrages, but the entertainment which he had formerly given to their majesties. When the multitude attacked his house, Mr. Barclay sent out some of his servants to observe the most active of the rioters, by which means two of the ringleaders were afterwards apprehended, and brought before Beckford, who, instead of committing them, proposed that they should pay for the damage which had been committed. Mr. Barclay, however, with becoming spirit, refused the offer, saying that he came for justice on the offenders, and not for money; in consequence of which, the magistrate, much against his will, was obliged to send the men to the compter. During these tumults, the mob dragged a hearse into the court-yard of St. James's, decorated with insignia of the most scandalous description; but the King remained firm in the drawing-room, whilst the court-yard and the streets resounded with the shouts of anarchy.

On the twenty-second of May Her Majesty was

delivered of a princess, who was baptized on the seventeenth of the following month, by the name of Elizabeth. Being thus prevented from appearing in public on the ensuing birth-day, the Queen presented to her beloved consort the following stanzas, written with her own hand in pencil, and which we may be sure were not less acceptable to him than the annual tribute of the Laureat on the same occasion.

I.

When monarchs give a grace to fate,
And rise as princes shou'd,
Less highly born, than truly great,
Less dignified, than good:

II.

What joy the natal day can bring,
From whence our hopes began,
Which gave the nation such a king,
And being, such a man!

III.

The sacred source of endless pow'r,
Delighted sees him born,
And kindly marks the circling hour,
That spoke him into morn.

IV.

Beholds him with the kindest eye
Which goodness can bestow;
And shews a brighter crown on high
Than e'er he wore below.

Such testimonies of fond affection more than counterbalanced the uneasiness occasioned by the madness of the people, and the desperate designs of an ungovernable faction. So dismal, indeed, was the aspect of affairs at this time, that the princess dowager actually went abroad, with the secret intention of ending her days in the Palace of Zell, that mansion which not long afterwards proved an asylum to her unfortunate and persecuted daughter. It was now thirty-four years since the princess had left her native land, for a country where she experienced little else than a series of trouble, after the death of her husband. On the accession of her son, she had reason to hope for other days, and to expect that her declining life would be spent in peace: instead of which, a new storm arose, and she found herself infinitely worse treated than when her family were deprived not merely of the pleasures, but in a great measure of the necessary comforts of their elevated station. Goaded by every species of insult, it was no wonder that the princess should take up a resolution of quitting for ever a nation where she was continually exposed to the most unfeeling and undeserved injuries. Her royal highness accordingly embarked for the continent with a large suite, on the eighth of June, but at the earnest entreaty of the King, she altered her mind, and returned by the way of Calais, at the end of October.

In the course of this summer, the Prince of

Hesse Darmstadt, with his family, visited London, in a very private manner; but though the illustrious strangers chose to be unknown during their short stay, they received particular marks of attention and respect from their majesties.

The Queen, in a sportive humour, took a rich diamond and pearl necklace, and desired the young Princess of Hesse to put it on, which being done, she said the ornament became her so very well, that it would be a pity to take it off again, and desired that she would wear it for her sake.

Hitherto, all the royal children had been kept chiefly under the constant observation of their parents at Richmond and Kew; but the Prince of Wales being now in his ninth year, it was deemed proper that he should be more in town, for the convenience of his tutors. Accordingly, a separate household was appointed for his royal highness at the Queen's Palace, and an order was issued on the eleventh of May, 1771, for the constant attendance of a chaplain in waiting to read prayers there every day. About this time, an attempt was made by Lord Chesterfield to get that ingenious but profligate divine, Doctor Dodd, appointed tutor to the Prince; but the King rejected the application, in a manner that plainly shewed how superior his judgment in estimating the character of men was to that of this celebrated peer. Having mentioned Chesterfield, however, it would be unjust to pass

over in silence his observation on the supposed political influence of Her Majesty:

"You seem," said he to his correspondent, "not to know the character of the Queen: here it is—she is a good woman, a good wife, a tender mother, and an unmeddling queen. The King loves her as a woman, but, I verily believe, has never spoke one word to her about politics."

On the fifth of June, 1771, Her Majesty was delivered of another prince, named Ernest-Augustus, now his royal highness the Duke of Cumberland.

An extraordinary circumstance occurred in this year, which, while it manifested the goodness of the Queen, proved that mercy may sometimes be injurious to the public. A woman, named Sarah Wilson, who attended the honourable Miss Vernon, one of the maids of honour, having found her way into one of the royal apartments, broke open a cabinet, which she rifled of several valuable jewels, and carried them off with several other articles.

The robbery was soon discovered; and the thief being detected, was committed for trial, convicted, and sentenced to death. Through the gracious interposition of the Queen, however, the culprit received a pardon, on condition of being transported for life, and accordingly she was sent to Maryland, where she was purchased by Mr. Devall, of Bush Creek, in Frederic county. But shortly after her arrival in America, she contrived the means of

escape, and making her way to Charlestown, South Carolina, she there assumed the title of Princess Susannah-Carolina-Matilda, giving herself out as the sister of the Queen. The clothes which she had carried with her favoured the deception, and the more so, as she still possessed some of the stolen articles, among which was a miniature of Her Majesty. She pretended that her reason for seeking an asylum on the transatlantic shore was to avoid a marriage into which she was about being forced by her august relations.

Strange as this tale was, many respectable persons believed it; and as the impostor had seen enough of a court to ape its forms, she succeeded admirably, being received with profound respect in many families of the first consequence. She even went so far as to admit persons to the honour of kissing her hand, and made large promises of preferment to those who had faith in her pretensions.

Some of the gentry in the province, indeed, suspected the trick, and endeavoured to undeceive their neighbours, but with little effect; and she continued to levy pretty large contributions upon the credulous, till the fame of the princess, reaching the ears of her master, he sent a messenger with powers to apprehend her as a runagate; and then the bubble burst, to the confusion of the honest people of Carolina.

CHAPTER IX.

Marriage of the Duke of Cumberland.—Royal Marriage Act.—The Duke of Gloucester avows his Marriage.—Persecution of the Queen of Denmark.—Death of the Princess Dowager of Wales.—Attention of their Majesties to Her Royal Highness.—Infamous Attacks upon her Character.—Her Liberality.—An Encourager of Botany.—Improvements in the Garden at Kew.—Censures passed on the plain Style of the English Court.—Silence of Junius in regard to the Queen.

Most inauspiciously did the year 1772 open to the royal family of Great Britain, but more particularly distressing to the private feelings of the King. The conduct of his brother, the Duke of Cumberland, had very recently been brought before the public, in a manner that could not but sensibly affect His Majesty, who, from the high notions which he entertained of his own duty, could ill endure any indecorum in those about him. Scarcely had the Duke of Cumberland, however, passed through the severe ordeal of a judicial investigation on an action for criminal conversation, than the public papers announced his marriage with the widow of Mr. Horton,

a Derbyshire gentleman. This new act of indiscretion, and total want of respect to the sovereign, not only produced an order forbidding the duke and his consort from appearing at court, but a message to parliament, recommending a new legislative provision for preventing any of the royal family from marrying without the consent of the King, his heirs, and successors. Accordingly, a bill to this effect was brought into the House of Lords, by which it was enacted, that none of the royal family, being under the age of twenty-five years, should marry without the King's consent; but, that on attaining the above age, they might be at liberty, in case of his refusal, to apply to the privy council, announcing at the same time the name of the person they were desirous of espousing; and if within a year neither house of parliament should address the throne against it, the marriage might be solemnized.

This bill did not pass without a violent opposition in both houses; and it must be confessed that the arguments against it were much more plausible than those by which the necessity of the measure was advocated. "To prohibit a man," said the opponents, "from contracting a marriage during his whole life, or, what amounts to the same thing, to render his power of contracting such marriage dependant, not on his own choice, or upon any fixed rule of law, but upon the arbitrary will of any man, or set of men, is a stretch of power incompatible with any human

legislature. The liberty of marriage is a natural right inherent in mankind; a right that has been confirmed by divine institution; a right which cannot be taken away by any laws of man's making. There is a total difference between regulating the mode of enjoying a right derived from nature, and the assuming or granting a discretionary power which tends to its annihilation. While, therefore, it is acknowledged reasonable and expedient, that the marriage of minors, as well as the exercise of all their other rights, should derive validity only from the consent of their parents or guardians, there is no power that can justly keep men and women of sound minds in a state of endless nonage. Though the legislature has a right to prescribe rules for the regulation of marriage, the assumption of a power to impose indefinite restrictions upon matrimony is a gross violation of the laws of nature." This argument, upon general principles, was followed by a particular application to the supposed exigency of the case on which the present act was framed, it being observed, that the bill was more likely at any conjuncture, where the succession should come to depend upon the construction of it, to produce a civil war than a peaceable settlement. It was also forcibly remarked, that the natural consequence of the restraint laid upon the marriage of the royal family would be to hurry them into libertinism and an irregular course of life; a consequence that ought to be

guarded against with the greater care, in proportion to the extensive and dangerous influence of their example upon the inferior orders of society. This was a cogent objection upon the strong ground of moral principle; nor was it less ably contended in a political point of view, that the bill was essentially wanting to its own purpose, in having provided no remedy against the greater evil arising from the improper marriages of the princes of the blood royal into foreign families; nor any against the issue of princesses so married disturbing the succession, and thereby, in certain cases, as much affecting the interest of the nation as the marriages of resident princes with native subjects.

Notwithstanding the opposition which this measure encountered, and naturally considering the interests of the noble families likely to be affected by it, the act passed into a law. But neither the displeasure professed by the King, nor this decision of the legislature, could deter the Duke of Gloucester from making a public avowal of the marriage which he had contracted five years before with the Countess Dowager of Waldegrave, and the grand-daughter of the celebrated Sir Robert Walpole.

Of this act, it may now, without offence, be observed, that however commendable might be the motives from whence it originated, it has certainly been more injurious than beneficial to the august line which it was intended to preserve. Time has

shewn the impolicy of attempting to guard against uncertain and remote evils, by laying restraints upon the imprescriptible rights of mankind, and the immutable laws of nature. Though the present reign has been extended to an unparalleled length, and the progeny with which it has been blessed is numerous, the existing state of the illustrious house of Brunswick is far from justifying the expectations of those who considered this act as the surest hedge that could be planted for its security.

At the very time when the bill was in its progress through parliament, a tragical scene, in proof of the baleful effects of political marriages, was exhibiting in Denmark, where, through the mental imbecility of the king, his amiable consort, Caroline-Matilda, became a victim to the rancorous hatred of the queen dowager, Julia-Maria, a woman of such fell malignity, that the mother of Hamlet, in the comparison, would have been as the odoriferous myrtle to the deadly nightshade.

The old queen, who was intriguing, ambitious, and vengeful in the extreme, placed what affection she had upon her younger son, Frederick, for whom she wished to secure the succession, hoping, from the weakness of the eldest, that this object would soon be accomplished. The alliance entered into with the British court could not but add the poison of jealousy to a spirit already envenomed with unnatural hatred, though she smothered her malice till

the return of the king from his foreign ramble, which strange measure was instigated by herself, the better to mature her designs. During the absence of her son, and his minister, Bernsdorff, this artful woman succeeded in strengthening her party, which increased by the subsequent conduct of the king, whose habits rendered him contemptible in the eyes of his subjects. The only difficulty in getting possession of the supreme power was in what manner to dispose of the young queen, upon whom, as a matter of right, the regency would otherwise devolve, in case of her husband's demise or insanity. The necessity of removing Caroline-Matilda being thus obvious as a preliminary measure, the plot was formed of charging her with treasonable practices. In such a country as Denmark, accusation and condemnation, where the state is concerned, are synonymous; and the unsuspecting queen, without receiving the least intimation of any crime being alleged against her, was arrested in her bed-chamber, and hurried to the castle of Cronenburgh.

The savage execution of the two ministers, Struensee and Brandt, upon the most equivocal charges, was a prelude of the intended fate of the queen, who would certainly have suffered also, had it not been for the spirited interposition of her brother. That the conspirators in Denmark should have ventured such lengths without fear of incurring the vengeance

of this country seems extraordinary; but the fact is, they were led to believe that it was out of the power of the British monarch to resent the wrong done to his sister. The state of England was considered all over the continent as verging on civil war; and this idea received sufficient colour to render it probable, from the scandalous outrages that were exhibited at that time in the metropolis. The Danes, however, were soon convinced of their mistake in this respect; and Sir Robert Keith, by his firmness, succeeded in obtaining the liberation of the unhappy Matilda, who was conveyed to Zell, where she died of a broken heart three years afterwards. In closing this melancholy story, it may not be unacceptable to relate one instance of becoming spirit which the queen shewed under her misfortunes, and when she had every reason to dread the worst from her implacable enemies. Out of mere mockery, a committee of enquiry was formed, to investigate the charges against Her Majesty; but, like true inquisitors, they went to Cronenburgh to put interrogatories to the royal prisoner, who plainly told them "that if they came to pay their duty to her as their queen they were welcome; but if their object was only to ask questions, they might return from whence they came, as she was determined not to hear any thing they had to say."

The shock produced on the mind of her brother by this intelligence from Denmark was rendered more

painful by the death of his mother, on the ninth of February. The princess dowager had indeed been long in a very indifferent state of health, and her disorder was aggravated in no small degree by this very marriage, to which she was from the beginning exceedingly averse, amounting to a presentiment that it would prove unhappy. The King and Queen used to go and see her every evening at eight o'clock; but when shegrew worse, they went at seven, pretending they mistook the hour. The night before her death, they were with her from seven to nine, during which she kept up the conversation as usual, retired to rest at ten, and died at six the next morning. On the sixteenth of the same month, the body of her royal highness was interred in Westminster Abbey, by the side of her beloved husband.

Never, perhaps, was there a more striking instance exhibited of the instability of sublunary happiness than in the history of this excellent princess. For many years she was the idol of the people of England, and enjoyed in the bosom of her family the greatest comforts; but, at the close of life, without the least fault whatever, she was held up to public scorn, and traduced beyond all example. The profligate author of the North Briton began the attack upon her character; and when asked by one of his acquaintance, who was shocked at the abuse, whether he really had any authority for his assertions, he said, "No, but that the people would believe

any thing that was said against their superiors." Yet these aspersions made so little impression on the mind of the princess, that she would often ask in the morning, "Well, what have the papers said of me?" After which, she read the most scurrilous paragraphs, without any other emotion than that of a smile. But though unmoved by the calumnies daily poured out against her, she was sensibly affected by the troubled state of the kingdom, the breaches made in her family, and especially the misfortunes of her beloved daughter, which last stroke evidently hastened her dissolution.

The princess left no will, for she had nothing to bequeath, her charities having kept an even pace with her income; and it was ascertained that she expended no less than ten thousand a-year in the support of indigent families, none of whom knew from what source their relief came, till the secret was discovered by the death of their benefactress. The charge brought against her of exercising an undue influence over her son was utterly false, and a mere artifice of the faction to inflame the public mind. As a proof of the contrary, it was universally known that her husband left many debts unliquidated, some of which remained in that unsettled state after the accession of His Majesty. But so far was the princess from taking any advantage of this change, she continued to pay off these claims out of her own annual income, till the whole outstanding debts were entirely

cleared. The only patronage she ever exercised was in appointments wholly at her own disposal; and these she bestowed without any solicitation; an instance of which may be mentioned in her nominating Dr. Stephen Hales to be her clerk of the closet, on whose death she erected, at her own expense, a monument to his memory in Westminster Abbey. He was succeeded, in the same liberal manner, by the celebrated Dr. Edward Young: and as a farther proof of her readiness to encourage men of merit, when Dr. Doddridge issued proposals for publishing by subscription his Family Expositor, the princess exerted herself with uncommon earnestness in promoting that valuable work. The only luxury, if it could be so called, in which she indulged, was the improvement of her garden at Kew. Her botanical knowledge was extensive, and she spared no cost in procuring rare plants from every part of the world. It was, therefore, gratifying to the princess, when she found that the Queen had a congenial taste; and this made the residence of her royal highness perfectly delightful to her, the intercourse between the two families being daily, and conducted without any formality. She was steady in her friendships, and very indulgent to her servants, being always anxious to give them as little trouble as possible; and when any of them were past labour, she took care to provide comfortably for their declining years. Her understanding was solid,

her temper placid, and her religion unaffected. Her constant prayers were offered for the happiness of the King and Queen, whose filial conduct, she repeatedly acknowledged, was the great support she had under the severe trials with which she was visited. Bishop Newton, who had been for many years intimately acquainted with the princess, thus concludes a neat eulogium upon her, in his memoirs:

"The calmness and composure of her death were farther proofs and attestations of the goodness of her life; and she died as she had lived, beloved and honoured most by those who knew her best."

After this loss, their majesties left the Old Lodge at Richmond for the palace at Kew, which continued to be their principal abode for some years. By taking in Kew Lane, which separated the two royal gardens, both were now thrown into one, the beautifying and enriching of which formed the chief amusement of the Queen, whose additions to that inestimable collection of exotics evinced the ardour of her zeal for the advancement of science. Her Majesty received numerous presents both for her hothouses and menagerie, which last was also extremely curious; and the recent discoveries made in the Southern Ocean contributed very largely to increase her stock of natural history. Among the variety of novelties brought from that part of the world, one was remarkable enough, being nothing less than the woven crown taken from the head of Queen Oberea,

and sent by herself as a token of vassalage to Her Majesty.

The retired manner in which the royal family of England lived at this time surprised foreigners, who could scarcely believe that this was a voluntary act of the sovereign, and especially of his august consort. A French nobleman, of high diplomatic character, once said that this want of splendour and gaiety had an ominous aspect, that tended to a revolution, little thinking how soon the levity of his own court would hasten the destruction of the government, and inundate the land with blood.

It is remarkable, however, that the same circumstance should have been made the subject of reproach against the King by an anonymous libeller, who, under an impervious obscurity, sent abroad his poisoned arrows with the dexterous hand and treacherous heart of an American savage. But, while the sovereign was basely represented as "secluded from the world, neither opening his heart to new connexions, nor his mind to better information," even the malignant Junius dared not venture to launch one of his envenomed shafts at the conduct of the Queen. That Junius was withheld by principle from doing so, the whole course of his tactics forbids the belief, for he was both a republican and an infidel, whose morals were subservient to his passions, and who cared little about the truth of what he asserted, provided he could distress his adversary, and impose

upon the credulity of the people. Junius had a personal enmity to the King, and the whole drift of his diatribes went to embarrass the government, and to wound the private feelings of His Majesty. Gladly, therefore, would such a wretch have planted another thorn in the side of the monarch, if he could have found any point to fasten upon in that quarter, where the infliction must have been felt with the most agonizing sensibility. But the character of the Queen rose beyond the power of Junius; and this midnight slanderer, conscious that any attempt to assail it would recoil upon himself, slunk away before the brightness which awed him into silence.

CHAPTER X.

Birth of Prince Augustus-Frederick.—Maternal Attentions of the Queen.—Regard for Religion.—Dr. Beattie's Interview with their Majesties.—Character of Lord Dartmouth.—Birth of Prince Adolphus-Frederick.—Anecdote of the Prince of Wales and Duke of York.—Royal Benevolence.—Sketch of the Daily Life of the King and Queen.—Moderation in Dress.—Check put upon extravagant Fashions.—Singular Article in a Foreign Gazette.—Verses to the Queen by Lord Clare.—Petition of the Maids of Honour.

On the twenty-seventh of January, 1773, the Queen was delivered at her house in the park of a sixth prince, who was baptized by the name of Augustus-Frederick, on the twenty-fifth of the following month, in the great council chamber at St. James's Palace. Soon after this addition to the family, now increased to nine children, Carleton House, that had been unoccupied from the death of the princess dowager, was ordered to be repaired and fitted up for the reception of the elder princes, who were under the care of Lady Charlotte Finch. Both the King and Queen appeared as if they were anxious to escape from the parade of royalty; and on that

account, though obliged to be in town on certain days, they never failed to hasten back in the evening to enjoy their tranquil retreat at Kew. Here the tenor of life ran in an even course. In the morning, while His Majesty was engaged on business, or in his study, the Queen employed herself in music, embroidery, or drawing, having generally the princess-royal or some of the younger children with her, their improvement being one of her most favourite occupations. After spending an hour or two in this agreeable manner, the royal party, with their attendants, either took an airing in the neighbourhood, or a walk in the gardens; and so attentive was the Queen to her children, that she never trusted the youngest of them out of her sight on these occasions. While in the nursery, she visited them; and when they had finished their lessons with Miss Planta, or the late Rev. Mr. de Guiffardiere, their French instructor, she had them brought into her presence, examined their progress in learning, and gave them such commendation as she found they deesrved.

The deep sense which she had of maternal duty appeared not only in her own example, but in her intercourse with others, of which the following instance is a proof. Being in conversation with a celebrated duchess, she asked after her children; and when her grace said that she believed they were doing very well, as they had a most excellent governess and faithful servants, who took the greatest care of

them, "What," replied the Queen, "do you leave them entirely to their attendants? That is more than I dare to do; for it is impossible that servants, however true they may be, or affectionate, can have the feelings of a parent." The duchess, somewhat abashed, endeavoured to justify the practice, but was stopped with this just rebuke: "There can be no apology for the neglect of the first of duties: it is enough that you are a mother, and converse with one; and I should be sorry to suppose you in the slightest degree indifferent, where you ought to possess the greatest sensibility."

The conduct of Her Majesty was a perfect illustration of this sentiment. Though the royal children had their proper attendants and instructors, who were all selected with the greatest care, and approved themselves worthy of their important trust, the Queen watched over them daily with as much concern as if they had no other person to look after them. In the first stage of infancy, they were caressed with parental fondness: in the more advanced state of childhood they lisped their lessons to her attentive ear; and as they grew upwards, she was their umpire, when differences arose among them; their oracle when they wished for information in difficulties; and not only their mother, but their guide, counsellor, and confidential friend.

The strong sense of religion which animated their majesties made them exceedingly solicitous to im-

imbue the minds of their children with the principles of Christianity, as soon as they were capable of comprehending the subject. They were not left to pick up this fundamental point of knowledge as a matter of course, or taught it merely in compliance with custom; but they were instructed in the whole history of the gospel, and the great doctrines which it reveals, as the motives of duty. If there was one thing more than another which excited the apprehensions of the King and Queen, it was the alarming spread of infidelity. They saw with deep concern the popularity of publications, which had no other aim than to undermine, by ridicule or sophistry, the faith that had stood the test of ages. Their majesties, therefore, set themselves, with a generous regard for their subjects, and a sacred reverence for truth, in opposition to the prevalent corruption. They shewed by their own example, that religion with them was something more than kneeling in public, and that they did not place morality in a mere form of prayer. Their mode of living exhibited a system of regularity which proved the solid integrity of their character, and the perfect sincerity of their religious principles. Men of licentious minds indeed sneered at this virtue; and there were not wanting some writers shameless enough to abuse the King for his piety. But the reproach of the wicked only served to confirm the resolution it was intended to shake; and the scoffers had the addi-

tional mortification to see the royal patronage liberally extended to men who advocated religious truth n spite of obloquy, and planted its standard triumphantly upon the ruins of false philosophy. Among these was the late professor Beattie, of Aberdeen, whose book on the Immutability of Truth, against Hume, was so acceptable to the King and Queen, that an unsolicited pension of two hundred pounds a-year was bestowed upon the author in the most handsome terms.

The professor happening this year to visit Oxford, at the installation of the chancellor, Lord North, was presented with the honorary degree of doctor of laws, in a manner highly gratifying to his feelings. On his coming to town, Dr. Beattie was informed that the King would be glad to have an interview with him; and of this visit he has given so particular an account in his Diary, that to abridge it would be to weaken its effect. It follows, therefore, in his own words:

"Tuesday, the twenty-fourth of August, 1773, set out for Dr. Majendie's, at Kew Green. The doctor told me that he had not seen the King yesterday, but had left a note in writing, to intimate that I was to be at his house to-day; and that one of the King's pages had come to him this morning, to say that His Majesty would see me a little after twelve. At twelve, the doctor and I went to the King's house at Kew. We had been only a few

minutes in the hall, when the King and Queen came in from an airing; and as they passed through the hall, the King called me by name, and asked how long it was since I came from town. I answered him, about an hour. 'I shall see you,' says he, 'in a little while.' The doctor and I waited a considerable time, for the King was busy, and then we were called into a large room, furnished as a library, where the King was walking about, and the Queen sitting in a chair. We were received in the most gracious manner possible by both their majesties. I had the honour of a conversation with them, nobody else being present but Dr. Majendie, for upwards of an hour, on a great variety of topics, in which both the King and Queen joined, with a degree of cheerfulness, affability, and ease, that was to me surprising, and soon dissipated the embarrassment which I felt at the beginning of the conference. They both complimented me in the highest terms on my Essay, which they told me was a book they always kept by them; and the King said he had one copy of it at Kew, and another in town, and immediately went and took it down from a shelf. I found it was the second edition. 'I never stole a book but one,' said His Majesty, 'and that was your's' (speaking to me). 'I stole it from the Queen, to give it to Lord Hertford to read.'

"He had heard that the sale of Hume's Essays had failed since my book was published; and I told him

what Mr. Strahan had told me in regard to that matter. He had even heard of my being at Edinburgh last summer, and how Mr. Hume was offended on the score of my book. He asked many questions about the second part of the Essay, and when it would be ready for the press. I gave him, in a short speech, an account of the plan of it, and said my health was so precarious, I could not tell when it might be ready, as I had many books to consult before I could finish it; but, that if my health was good, I thought I might bring it to a conclusion in two or three years. He asked how long I had been in composing my Essay, praised the caution with which it was written, and said that he did not wonder that it had employed me five or six years. He asked about my Poems. I said there was only one poem of my own on which I set any value (meaning the Minstrel); and that it was first published about the same time as the Essay. My other poems, I said, were incorrect, being but juvenile pieces, and of little consequence, even in my own opinion.

"We had much conversation on moral subjects; from which both their majesties let it appear that they were warm friends to Christianity; and so little inclined to infidelity, that they could hardly believe that any thinking man could really be an atheist, unless he could bring himself to believe that he had made himself—a thought which pleased the King

exceedingly, and he repeated it several times to the Queen. He asked whether any thing had been written against me. I spoke of the late pamphlet, of which I gave an account, telling him that I had never met with any man that had read it except one quaker. This brought on some discourse about the quakers, whose moderation and mild behaviour the King and Queen commended.—I was asked many questions about the Scots universities, the revenues of the Scots clergy, their mode of praying and preaching, the medical college at Edinburgh, Dr. Gregory and Dr. Cullen; the length of our vacation at Aberdeen, and the closeness of our attendance during the winter; the number of students that attend my lectures; my mode of lecturing, whether from notes, or completely written lectures: about Mr. Hume and Dr. Robertson, and Lord Kinnoul, and the Archbishop of York, &c.—His Majesty asked what I thought of my new acquaintance, Lord Dartmouth. I said there was something in his air and manner, which I thought not only agreeable, but enchanting, and that he seemed to me to be one of the best of men; a sentiment in which both their majesties heartily joined. 'They say that Lord Dartmouth is an enthusiast,' said the King; 'but surely he says nothing on the subject of religion, but what every christian may and ought to say.'

"He asked whether I did not think the English

language on the decline at present. I answered in the affirmative, and the King agreed, and named the Spectator as one of the best standards of the language. When I told him that the Scots clergy sometimes prayed a quarter, or even half an hour at a time, he asked whether that did not lead them into repetitions. I said it often did.

"'That,' said he, 'I don't like in prayers; and excellent as our liturgy is, I think it somewhat faulty in that respect.' 'Your majesty knows,' said I, 'that three services are joined in one, in the ordinary church service, which is one cause of these repetitions.' 'True,' he replied, 'and that circumstance also makes the service too long.' From this he took occasion to speak of the composition of the church liturgy; on which he very justly bestowed the highest commendation.

"'Observe,' His Majesty said, 'how flat those occasional prayers are, that are now composed, in comparison with the old ones.'

"When I mentioned the smallness of the church livings in Scotland, he said he wondered how men of liberal education would choose to become clergymen there; and asked, whether in the remote parts of the country the clergy in general were not very ignorant. I answered 'No; for that education was cheap in Scotland, and that the clergy in general were men of good sense and competent learning.' He asked whether we had any

good preachers in Aberdeen. I said yes; and named Campbell and Gerard; with whose names, however, I did not find that he was acquainted. Doctor Majendie mentioned Doctor Oswald's Appeal,* with commendation: I praised it too; and the Queen took down the name with a view to send for it. I was asked whether I knew Doctor Oswald. I answered I did not: and said that my book was published before I read his: that Doctor Oswald was well known to Lord Kinnoul, who had often proposed to make us acquainted.

"We discussed a great many other topics, for the conversation lasted upwards of an hour. The Queen bore a large share in it. Both the King and Her Majesty shewed a great deal of good sense,

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* "An Appeal to Common Sense in behalf of Religion," octavo, 1767. The author, Dr. James Oswald, was a learned and pious divine of the church of Scotland; and of his work, that excellent judge, Archbishop Secker, thus wrote to a friend who had sent it to him. "The fundamental principle of his Appeal is not only right, but of the greatest importance; and he hath treated the subject with great justice and perspicuity; great mildness and decency towards those whom he confutes; great seriousness and propriety towards those whom he exhorts."

Dr. Priestley, however, was of a different opinion; and Dr. Oswald was one of the three Scotch Doctors whom he attacked with his wonted petulance and ill manners. The other two were that acute metaphysician, Dr. Reid, and the ingenious Dr. Beattie.

acuteness, and knowledge, as well as of good-nature and affability. At last the King took out his watch (for it was now almost three o'clock, his hour of dinner), which Doctor Majendie and I took as a signal to withdraw: we accordingly bowed to their majesties, and I addressed the King in these words:

"I hope your majesty will pardon me, if I take this opportunity to return you my humble and most grateful acknowledgments for the honour you have been pleased to confer upon me.' He immediately answered: 'I think I could do no less for a man who has done so much service for the cause of christianity. I shall always be glad of an opportunity to shew the good opinion I have of you.'

"The Queen sat all the while, and the King stood, sometimes walking about a little. Her Majesty speaks the English language with surprising elegance, and little or nothing of a foreign manner: so that if she was only of the rank of a private gentlewoman, one could not help taking notice of her as one of the most agreeable women in the world. Her face is much more pleasing than any of her pictures; and in the expression of her eyes, and in her smile, there is something peculiarly engaging."

William, Lord Dartmouth, mentioned in such high terms of commendation by their majesties, was at this time secretary of state for the colonies,

and first lord of trade, in which post he succeeded the Earl of Hillsborough, and so continued till he was appointed lord privy seal, on the resignation of the Duke of Grafton. The excellence of his character may be inferred from the fact, that all parties esteemed him for his integrity, and spoke well of his talents, at a time when scarcely any one in public life could escape the lash of satire. By patronizing that class of divines called Calvinistic, he drew upon himself the appellation of Methodist; but he was perfectly clear from the flighty zeal and extravagancies of the sectaries who go under that denomination. His religion was the result of serious inquiry, and its sincerity was made to appear in the whole tenor of his public and private life. As a statesman, he was upright, diligent, and consistent; firm in his principles, and moderate to his opponents. Doctor Franklin, who was intimate with him, hailed his appointment to the board of trade and plantations as auspicious for the colonies; but it was not in Lord Dartmouth's power to prevent a rupture, which was already determined upon in the secret councils of the Americans. One thing is certain, that as the nomination of this excellent nobleman was the personal act of the King, at whose request alone his lordship could be prevailed upon to accept the place, it shews that His Majesty was for healing measures.

On the twenty-fourth of February, 1774, at five o'clock in the afternoon, Prince Adolphus-Frederick, now Duke of Cambridge, was born at the Queen's house, on which occasion the King received the usual congratulations.

The simplicity with which the younger children were brought up, is manifested by an anecdote of a conversation between the King and the Duke of Montague, when the latter attended a levee, after a visit to his daughter, the Duchess of Buccleugh, at Dalkeith House; and, in answer to a question from His Majesty, respecting the health of her children, he replied that they were all well, and making a hearty breakfast of oatmeal pottage every morning. The King then enquired whether they got good oatmeal. On being told that they were supplied with oatmeal of a most excellent quality, from Mr. James Mutter, of Middle Mills, near Laswade, His Majesty instantly requested the duke to order some for him; and the royal family were also supplied with that article from those mills for some years afterwards.

The education of the royal offspring was conducted on the principle of utility, as well as elegance, of which the following instance is related by Mr. Arthur Young, as having occurred when the Prince of Wales was scarcely more than twelve years of age.

A spot of ground in the garden at Kew was dug

by his royal highness the Prince of Wales, and his brother, the Duke of York, who sowed it with wheat, attended the growth of their little crop, weeded, reaped, and harvested it, solely by themselves. They thrashed out the corn, and separated it from the chaff; and at this period of their labour were brought to reflect, from their own experience, on the various labours and attention of the husbandman and farmer. The princes not only raised their own crop, but they also ground it, and having parted the bran from the meal, attended to the whole process of making it into bread, which it may well be imagined was eaten with no slight relish. The King and Queen partook of the philosophical repast; and beheld with pleasure the very amusements of their children rendered the source of useful knowledge.

The strict domestic attention which the royal pair displayed in the rearing of their offspring, was, indeed, highly deserving the imitation of every class of their subjects. It was customary to allow them a stated sum as a kind of privy purse, given without any express directions for its expenditure, but subject to the Queen's enquiries respecting its disposal, when a due rebuke was given, if the case demanded it; or praise was judiciously bestowed upon more deserving appropriations, so as to operate as a future lesson.

On one occasion, at breakfast, whilst the King was

reading a newspaper, one of the younger branches of the family, looking up in the Queen's face, said, "Mamma, I can't think what a prison is." Upon its being explained, and understanding that the prisoners were often half starved for want, the child replied, "that is cruel, for the prison is bad enough without starving; but I will give all my allowance to buy bread for the poor prisoners." Due praise was given for this benevolent intention, which was directed to be put in force, together with an addition from their majesties; and thus many a heart was relieved that knew not its benefactors.

Thus the virtue of benevolence was not merely inculcated in formal lessons, or left to casual exercise, as objects of distress might happen to present themselves for relief; but it was systematized on a regular plan. Method, indeed, was observed with the exactest precision throughout the royal household; and the picture of a single day might be considered as that of the whole year. Of this economy of time and employment, while the family resided at Kew, the following is a faithful sketch, as drawn up by an observer at the period:

"At six in the morning their majesties rise, and enjoy the two succeeding hours in a manner which they call their own. At eight, the Prince of Wales, the Bishop of Osnabrug, the princess-royal, and the Princes William and Edward, are brought from

their respective apartments, to breakfast with their illustrious parents. At nine, the younger children then attend, to lisp or smile their good morrows; and whilst the five eldest are closely applying to their tasks, the little ones and their nurses pass the morning in the garden.

"The King and Queen frequently amuse themselves with sitting in the room while the children dine; and once a-week, attended by the whole offspring in pairs, make the delightful tour of Richmond Gardens, where Her Majesty has erected a cottage after a design of her own, in a chaste style, and ornamented it with a large collection of the best English prints. In the afternoon, while the Queen works at her needle, the King reads Shakespeare, or some other favourite author; and whatever charms ambition or folly may conceive to avail so exalted a station, it is neither on the throne nor in the drawing-room, in the splendour or the toys of sovereignty, that they place their felicity: it is in social and domestic gratifications, in breathing the free air, admiring the works of nature, tasting and encouraging the elegancies of art, and in living without dissipation. In the evening, all the children pay their duty at Kew House, before they retire to bed; after which, the King reads to Her Majesty; and having closed the day with a joint act of devotion, they retire to rest. This is the order of each revolving day, with such exceptions as are unavoid-

able in their high station. The sovereign is the father of his family: not a grievance reaches his knowledge that remains unredressed, nor a character of merit or ingenuity disregarded: his private conduct, therefore, is as exemplary as it is amiable.

"The Prince of Wales and the Bishop of Osnabrug bid fair to excel in learning, as no less than eight hours are spent in close application to the languages and the literal sciences. All the ten, indeed, are very fine children; and it does not yet appear that parental partiality is known at court. Exercise, air, and light diet, are in the King's idea fundamentally necessary to health: His Majesty, therefore, feeds chiefly on vegetables, and drinks but little wine: the Queen is what many private gentlewomen would call whimsically abstemious; for, at a table covered with dainties, she prefers the plainest and simplest dish, and seldom eats of more than two things at a meal. Her wardrobe is changed every three months; and while the nobility are eager to supply themselves with foreign dainties, her care is that nothing but what is English shall be provided for her wear. The tradesmen's bills are regularly paid once a-quarter, for what comes under the childrens' department; and the whole is judiciously and happily conducted."

This was written in the year 1775, by a person professionally about the court, who farther observed, "that Her Majesty displayed infinite taste, no less

in the disposition of her jewels, than that of her hair; the toupee being suited to the length and breadth of her face, so that whilst it fulfilled every intention of nature as to ornament, it answered every purpose of convenience, by being of a moderate size, light, and well-arranged: Her Majesty's cap was likewise so judiciously chosen, as neither to be so diminutive as to be nearly invisible, nor of such a magnitude as to bury the features of the wearer."

At the time when these remarks were made upon the appearance of the Queen, the capriciousness of fashion ran to the greatest excess. The female head was loaded with a pyramid of hair, on the summit of which waved a plume of feathers, of such an extraordinary length, that ladies of even moderate stature were obliged to stoop very low as they entered a room. The late Duchess of Devonshire, who was then the principal star in the court firmament, chose to make herself conspicuous for the size of her plumage, by wearing an ostrich feather of uncommon dimensions, which it was said she received as a present from Lord Stormont. The rage for feathers became in consequence so extravagant, that Her Majesty did all she could to check the folly, by wearing none herself, and intimating her desire that none should appear at court. This excited some mirth, at the expense of the ladies; but the most extraordinary thing of all, was a Latin letter pub-

lished on the subject, in the Cologne Gazette, as follows:

Londini, x'v *Lipritis.*

"*In communem ferme apud fœminas venit morem grandes in capite gestare plumas, ingressum in conclavia persæpe impedientes, eoque adhucdum ingravescente, eas haut fœmineum, sed plumeum genus appellare fas est: Regina, exemplar, virtutum sui generis existens, interdixit ne dominarum ulla plumoso crepitulo ornata in aula compareat.*

"*Ducissa de Devonshire struthio camelina pluma longitudinis ulnæ unius ac trium digitorum cristata incedabat.*"

That is,

London, April 15.

"It is become a general fashion with the women to wear large feathers on their heads, which often hinder their entrance into their apartments; and which fashion now so increases, that we may truly call them, not the feminine, but the feathered sex. The Queen, the example of her sex in every virtue, has forbidden any of the plume-headed ladies to appear at court.

"The Duchess of Devonshire is crested with an ostrich feather, one ell and three inches long."

It was at the beginning of this year, that Lord Clare, afterwards Earl Nugent, presented to Her

Majesty a piece of excellent poplin of Irish manufacture, which he accompanied with some verses, that excited the risibility of the critics, and gave occasion to a witticism, it being said, though not truly, that the Queen returned thanks to his lordship for both pieces of stuff.

Parliament, during this session, granted one hundred thousand pounds to His Majesty, on account of what had been laid out in the original purchase and the fitting up of the Queen's palace, in consideration that Somerset House should be converted and applied, for the future, to the purpose of holding and keeping therein certain public offices. Pursuant to this resolution, an act was also passed for settling the Queen's house, heretofore called Buckingham House, upon Her Majesty.

The sequestered manner in which the royal family lived at this time was far from being agreeable to some of the household; and the maids of honour, in particular, were so much offended, that they presented a memorial to the Lord Steward, complaining of their want of suppers. This being imparted to the King, he said, "that the regimen adopted by himself and the Queen could not be altered;" but, of his own accord, he immediately raised the salaries of the ladies seventy pounds each, which was more than an adequate compensation for the privation they sustained. Having noticed this circumstance, it may not be improper to observe, that

whenever one of Her Majesty's maids of honour married, a bridal gift of one thousand pounds was always presented to the lady previous to the ceremony. The first who received this compliment was the daughter of Sir Cecil Bishop, on her marriage with Sir George Warren.

CHAPTER XI.

Melancholy Case of the Perreaus.—Aversion of the King and the Prince Regent to the signing of Death Warrants.—Reflections on that Practice.—Birth of Princess Mary.—Alterations in the Government of the elder Princes.—Preferment of Dr. Porteus.—Celebration of the Birth-day of the Prince of Wales.—Experiments to resist Fire.—Case of Dr. Dodd.—Birth of Princess Sophia.—War between England and France.—Their Majesties visit Portsmouth and the Camps.—Musical Phenomenon.—Anecdote of Prince William-Henry.—Residence at Windsor.—Bounty of the Queen to Widows.—Poetical Eulogium.

A MOST distressing spectacle shocked the feelings of Her Majesty at the beginning of the year 1776, as she passed through an anti-room, in her way to the chapel-royal. This was, the wife of Robert Perreau, accompanied by her little family, all clad in deep mourning, and waiting, with palpitating hearts, to present a petition on the behalf of the unhappy man, who, together with his brother, then lay under sentence of death for forgery. The case was one of an extraordinary nature, that greatly agitated the public mind, particularly as it concerned the husband of the afflicted woman who now came

to implore the interest of the Queen for mercy. Her Majesty was deeply affected, took the petition with a trembling hand, and looked compassionately upon the melancholy group, but could only utter a sigh, which, however, sufficiently spoke the language of the heart. The petition was committed to the hands of the King, by whom it was referred to the council; but, on Lord Mansfield's saying that one brother could not be pardoned without the other, and the guilt of Daniel Perreau being considered as manifest, justice took its course, though not without exciting a general murmur of dissatisfaction. While upon this melancholy subject, it is proper to observe, that the King was never known to sign a death-warrant without expressing visible emotions, which sometimes rendered him incapable of performing that act of royalty for a few minutes. Let it be spoken also to the honour of his royal highness the Prince Regent, that he has uniformly evinced the same tenderness of heart in the discharge of this most painful of his ministerial duties. It would be well if the royal signature could be dispensed with altogether, in the adjudication of criminals to death; for, according to the present system, it not only exposes the sovereign to many harsh censures, but puts his private feelings oftentimes to the most racking torture. Let the monarch enjoy the exquisite delight arising from the dispensation

of mercy, but let the invidious office of pronouncing the last stern decree of justice be entrusted to a commission or the council.

On the twenty-fifth of April, at seven in the morning, Her Majesty was delivered of her royal highness the Princess Mary, now Duchess of Gloucester.

Soon after this, a change took place in the education of the two elder princes, Lord Bruce, their governor, being superseded by the Duke of Montagu, and Dr. Markham as tutor, by Bishop Hurd. This alteration was much talked of at the time, and various reasons were assigned for it; the most credited of which was, that Lord Bruce, having been corrected, with respect to a classical quotation, by the Prince of Wales, thought it prudent to retire from an office, which, whatever might be his merits in other respects, he was but indifferently qualified to fill as a scholar. The same objection certainly could not apply to the Bishop of Chester; but then it was said, that though his lordship's classical abilities were of the first order, his manner of conveying instruction was far from being easy or agreeable. Besides, the King had formed a high opinion of the various talents of Bishop Hurd, from reading his Dialogues; and he thought that a man who evinced such an accurate knowledge of the English history and constitution, was the fittest person to superintend the studies of an heir-apparent to the

throne of these realms. The appointment was accordingly made, but without giving offence to Lord Bruce or Dr. Markham, the one being created Earl of Aylesbury, and the other elevated soon after to the see of York. This last promotion afforded the Queen an opportunity of exerting her influence in raising Dr. Porteus to the episcopal bench; but though the fact was generally known that this excellent prelate owed his preferment entirely to the recommendation of Her Majesty, the obligation is not once mentioned by his lordship's biographer. Dr. Porteus was originally recommended to Her Majesty by his patron, Archbishop Secker, and he continued to enjoy her confidence all his life: how, therefore, no notice should have been taken of a circumstance so perfectly honourable to all the parties, is very unaccountable. The piety of the bishop rendered him very acceptable to the Queen, who, indeed, was never more happy than in shewing her esteem for those who exerted their talents in behalf of religion, of which, the pensions she procured for Dr. Blair and Dr. Fordyce may also be adduced as striking instances.

The birth-day of the Prince of Wales was celebrated this year at Windsor in a peculiar manner. Their majesties, and all the family, with several of the nobility, went in procession to St. George's Chapel, where, previous to the service, the King, the Prince, the Bishop of Osnabrug, and the Duke

of Montagu, went to the altar, and made their offerings of gold and silver, the prebendaries receiving the same in a golden dish. On the twenty-second of the same month, there was a regatta, in honour of the Prince, who gave three prizes, to be rowed for by as many young watermen just out of their time. The day was fine, and their majesties walked among the company, along the side of the river, enjoying the liveliness of the scene, and the pleasure it afforded to the numerous spectators.

About a month afterwards, the King and Queen, with the Prince of Wales, the Bishop of Osnabrug, the princess-royal, and the Princess Augusta, attended by Lady Charlotte Finch, General Desaguliers, and Colonel Hotham, went to Mr. Hartley's house on Wimbledon Common, to see some very remarkable experiments, illustrative of that gentleman's invention for the security of buildings against fire. Their majesties, with the princes and princesses, first breakfasted in one of the rooms, the tea-kettle being boiled over a fire made upon the floor of the opposite room, which apartment they afterwards went into, and saw the bed set on fire, the curtains of which were soon consumed, and part of the bedstead, but not the whole, the flames, from the resistance of the floor, going out of themselves. Their majesties then went down stairs, and saw a horse-shoe forged in a fire made upon the floor; as also a large faggot lighted, that was hung up to the

ceiling instead of a curtain; after which, two fires were made upon the staircase, and one under the stairs, all of which burnt out quietly, without spreading beyond the place where the fuel was first laid. Their majesties paid the greatest attention to every experiment that was made, and expressed the utmost satisfaction at the discovery. The whole concluded by lighting a large magazine of faggots, pitch, and tar, in the same room that had undergone the same trial twice before: once, when these experiments were first shewn to the King, and afterwards to the committee of the City of London; and it burnt out now as it did then, with amazing fury, but no damage to the floor or ceiling. What deserved observation perhaps, as much as any thing, was the courage of the Queen and the children, in going up stairs, and abiding in the room directly over that which was raging like a furnace beneath.

In the summer following, their majesties were very much distressed by the case of Dr. Dodd, on whose behalf numerous petitions were laid before the throne, and among the rest, one from the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common-council of London. This was presented at a drawing-room; and, at the same time, the wife of that unfortunate divine attended with another, to Her Majesty, but was so overcome with grief, that she fainted away three times, which being imparted to the Queen, she received the petition without waiting till she came

out of the drawing-room. Another application for the same object was made to the Queen by the governors of the Magdalen charity, of which the doctor was the principal founder, and Her Majesty the patroness. But here also justice closed the door upon mercy; and Lord Mansfield said, when the case came before the council, "that should Dodd be pardoned, the Perreaus were murdered." Two such circumstances in criminal history have seldom happened within the same compass of time; but though the guilt of Dr. Dodd could hardly be doubted, there were points in his case that might have justified the exercise of the finest attribute of the crown in his favour, if it had not been for the previous taint on his character, by an act which occasioned his being struck out of the list of king's chaplains. That mark of disgrace, instead of curing, only served to increase the folly of the doctor, who went on from one degree of extravagance to another, till a capital offence completed the climax of his errors, and an ignominious death terminated his career.

On the fourth of November, 1777, Her Majesty was delivered at her palace of a princess, who was baptized on the first of the following month at St. James's, by the name of Sophia.

The contest between England and her revolted colonies had now lasted three years, when the flames of war came nearer home, by an open de-

claration of the French court, avowing its alliance with the United States of America. Hostilities were of course inevitable; and the spirit of the country was raised to the highest degree of animation in consequence of this act of perfidy, for such undoubtedly it was on the part of the French government. The most active preparations were accordingly made for carrying on the war with vigour both by sea and land; a large fleet being fitted out under Admiral Keppel, and camps formed in different places, to repel any attempts at invasion. On the morning of the third of May, 1778, their majesties set out for Portsmouth, where they arrived the next day; and while the King was viewing the ordnance, the Queen went on board the royal yacht, in which she proceeded to Spithead, passing through the fleet, and receiving royal salutes. In the course of the day, she was joined by His Majesty, who dined with her under a large awning on the quarter-deck of the yacht, accompanied by several flag-officers. On the sixth, the Queen inspected the rope-house, with all its wonderful machinery; and, after a minute examination of the several departments in the dock-yard, the royal pair returned to town, the road throughout being lined with spectators.

At the end of September, their majesties set out on another tour to the west, for the purpose of inspecting the camp near Winchester. On their arrival at Eastgate House, belonging to Mr. Penton,

they were waited upon by the mayor and corporation of Winchester, who addressed them in a loyal speech, as did the master and fellows of the college, who were all graciously received. In the evening, there was a general illumination in the city, the very steeples of the churches being surrounded with lights, and the bells rung all night long.

Their majesties supped and slept at Eastgate House during their stay; but though the Queen held drawing-rooms there, the King had his levees at St. John's House, in the city. His Majesty was dressed in scarlet, faced with blue, gold lace, and epaulettes. Her Majesty wore a scarlet riding-dress faced with blue, richly embroidered, a black hat and feather, and a large cockade. Upwards of five hundred gentlemen on horseback, with bands of music, went more than seven miles to meet their majesties, whom they accompanied into town with shouts of "God save the King and Queen." The next morning, being the twenty-ninth, the King reviewed the troops; after which, their majesties dined in the royal marquee, with several of the nobility and officers. In the evening, the City of Winchester was again illuminated, and the next day their majesties visited the principal buildings, particularly the college, where the senior scholar delivered a Latin oration. The same afternoon, the royal personages left Winchester, having, during their short stay, endeared themselves to the inha-

bitants, by their courtesy and charities. Before their departure, several debtors were released by their bounty, a number of convicts received the royal pardon, and a large sum was entrusted to the mayor for distribution among the poor.

From Winchester, their majesties went to Salisbury, where they inspected the cathedral, and then paid a visit to Lord Pembroke, at Wilton. The next day they rode out upon the plain, to see Stonehenge, and after examining that stupendous monument of druidical superstition very minutely, they proceeded to the Duke of Queensberry's at Ambresbury, and from thence to Windsor.

On the nineteenth of the following month, the King and Queen went to see the camp at Warley, in Essex, taking up their residence for three days at Thorndon Hall, the seat of Lord Petre, who is said to have expended upwards of twelve thousand pounds in entertaining his royal visitors.

At the beginning of November, their majesties again set off on another military progress, to review the troops encamped on Coxheath, in Kent. During the manœuvres, the Queen sat in her carriage, attended by Lady Edgecumbe; but, when the whole ended, she alighted, and went into the royal marquee, where the Duchesses of Devonshire, Grafton, and Gordon, Lady Cranborne, and many other females of distinction, were introduced; after which, a number of the officers had the honour to kiss their

majesties' hands. These ceremonies being finished, the royal pair proceeded to Leeds Castle, where they were sumptuously entertained, and then returned to town.

During the whole of these excursions, considerable largesses were left for distribution among the poor, in the several parishes through which their majesties passed; and in this last progress, the King ordered a list of the debtors at Maidstone to be made out, that the royal bounty might be extended to those who should be found deserving of it.

One of the parliamentary measures of this session was an act enabling His Majesty to settle annuities on his younger children, and those of the Duke of Gloucester; the former to take effect on the demise of the King, and the latter on that of his brother.

At the beginning of the next year, that wonderful phenomenon, young Crotch, now professor of music at Oxford, was introduced to their majesties, who held a private concert at the Queen's palace, for the purpose of witnessing his extraordinary powers. A numerous company of nobility attended, with a large band of performers; notwithstanding which, the child, though no more than three years and a half old, played several pieces upon the organ, with an exactness that astonished and delighted all who were present; after which, he performed in concert with the rest of the musicians.

On the twenty-third of February, another prince was added to the family; and being the eighth son, the appropriate name of Octavius was given to him at his baptism, which ceremony was performed with great splendour, in the great council-chamber at St. James's, on the twenty-fifth of the following month.

Prince William-Henry, the third son of their majesties, and now Duke of Clarence, was at this time serving as midshipman on board the Prince George, under the personal care of Rear Admiral Digby. His royal highness, of course, bore a part in the great naval engagement fought between the English and Spanish fleets, commanded by Admiral Rodney and Don Juan de Langara. The Spanish Admiral, after the victory, went on board the Prince George; and, on expressing his wish to return to his own ship, his royal highness, as a midshipman, came to announce that the boat was ready, on which, the Don lifted up his eyes with amazement, and exclaimed: "Well may England be the mistress of the ocean, when the sons of her King are thus employed in her service."

Their majesties at this period spent much of their time at Windsor, where the Queen, who, from the first moment she saw the place, expressed a desire to reside there, was now gratified by the building of a house near the castle-wall, and almost at the summit of the hill. This edifice, however, though

capacious, was only designed for an occasional retirement, the King and Queen who sometimes remained there three days in a week, or longer, during the summer months, still continuing to occupy the old palace at Kew, for the convenience of their numerous progeny. While the royal family dwelt at Kew, several of the nobility took houses in the neighbourhood; so that if the court did not exhibit the glare of magnificence, it displayed the comfort of sociability and confidence.

Bishop Newton, who had a house on the green, observes, "that it was an additional pleasure to see and hear so much more of the King and Queen in their privacies, of their conjugal happiness, and of their domestic virtues, which, the nearer they were beheld, appeared greater and more amiable, and were a shining pattern to the very best of their subjects."

In their daily rides for an airing, their majesties never failed to notice any objects that appeared to stand in need of immediate relief, or whose industry merited particular encouragement. Inquiries were made into the state of indigent families, and, without any delay, the most effectual assistance was conveyed to them, through trusty hands. One of the charities of the Queen at this period was of a peculiar description, and evinced as much discrimination as liberality. There were three classes of widows, twelve in each, supported by pensions agreeable to

their former situations in life. The lowest grant was twenty guineas a-year, thus judiciously rendering some employment necessary on the part of the person who received it; but the payment was always quarterly, and in advance.

Well, therefore, did Her Majesty merit the following encomium, expressed in the form of a satire, wherein, after an ironical display of the excellencies of the monarch, the bard, since celebrated as the author of one of the most popular poems in the language, thus proceeds to delineate the character of the Queen:

FRIEND.

I own your satire's just and keen;
Proceed, and satirise the Queen.

POET.

With all my heart.—The Queen, they say,
Attends her nursery every day;
And, like a common mother, shares
In all her infants' little cares.
What vulgar, unamusing scene,
For GEORGE's wife, and BRITAIN's Queen!
'Tis whisper'd also at the palace,
(I hope 'tis but the voice of malice)
That (tell it not in foreign lands)
She works with her own royal hands!
And that our sovereign's sometimes seen
In vest embroidered by his Queen.
This might a courtly fashion be
In days of old ANDROMACHE;

But modern ladies, trust my words,
Seldom sew tunics for their lords.
What secret next must I unfold?
She hates, I'm confidently told,
She hates the manners of the times,
And all our fashionable crimes;
And fondly wishes to restore
The golden age, and days of yore,
When silly, simple woman thought
A breach of chastity a fault;
Esteem'd those modish things, DIVORCES,
The very worst of human curses;
And deem'd assemblies, cards, and dice,
The springs of every sort of vice.
Romantic notions! all the fair
At such absurdities must stare;
And, spite of all her pains, will still
Love routs, adultery, and quadrille.

FRIEND.

Well, is that all you find to blame,
Sir Critic, in the royal dame?

POET.

All I could find to blame! No, truly,
The longest day in June and July,
Would fail me, ere I could express
The half of CHARLOTTE's blemishes.
Those foolish and old-fashion'd ways,
Of keeping holy sabbath days;
That affectation to appear
At church, the word of God to hear:
That poor-like plainness in her dress,
So void of noble tawdriness;

That affability and ease,
Which can her menial servants please;
But which incredibly demean
The state and grandeur of a queen
These, and a thousand things beside,
I could discover and deride;
But here's enough. Another day
I may perhaps renew my lay.
Are you content?

FRIEND.

Not quite, unless
You put your satire to the press;
For sure a satire in this mode
Is equal to a birth-day ode.

END OF PART I.

Her Majesty

QUEEN CHARLOTTE.

Engraved by Wm. J. Alais from a Original Picture

Published 1 Jan. by Harris & Alais Ludgate Street Dec. 21. 1818

MEMOIRS

OF

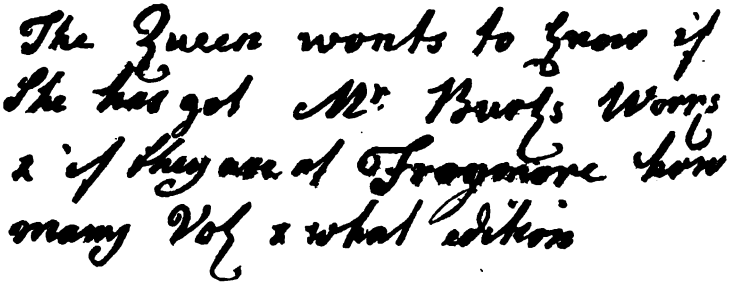
HER MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,

Sophia Charlotte.

PART II.

FAC SIMILE

OF HER MAJESTY'S WRITING.



PLATES

WHICH ILLUSTRATE THESE MEMOIRS.

PORTRAIT of HER MAJESTY, at the time of her Marriage ..... to face the general title.

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THE ROYAL VAULT, St. George's Chapel, Windsor, ditto 590

Since the printing of the last sheet, the author has been apprised of the two following inadvertencies that have escaped him, and which he takes this opportunity of correcting.

The first regards the sepulture of the late Duke of Gloucester, who, instead of being interred in the royal mausoleum constructed by the orders of His Majesty, was buried in the vault previously occupied by the remains of the infant daughter of his royal highness in the choir near the sovereign's stall of St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

The second is where Lady de Clifford is said to have given designs for a set of porcelain, instead of having only selected them.

HIS MAJESTY

KING GEORGE III.

Published April 1819, by Henry Colburn Conduit Street.

PART II.

CHAPTER XII.

Riots in London.—Firmness of their Majesties.—Birth of Prince Alfred.—Arrival of Prince William-Henry.—Parting Scene between the two eldest Princes.—Social Esteem.—Prince of Wales declared of Age.—Rejoicings on that Event.—Purchase of Kew.—Character of the Queen.—Anecdote of Princess Mary.—Celebration of Her Majesty's Birth-day in 1782.—Death of Prince Alfred.—Arrival of the Prince of Mecklenburg.—Story of Edward and Egwina.

The dreadful riots which laid a great part of the capital in ashes, and struck terror through the nation, in the summer of 1780, broke out while their majesties were at Buckingham House, for the celebration of the birth-day. But, while the magistracy shrunk from their duty, and even the ministers of state appeared panic-struck, the King acted with becoming coolness and energy. The Queen also, though in a state of pregnancy, remained at her palace, when the ladies of the court were hurrying out of town with their jewels. His Majesty sat up two nights with the Guards, in the riding-house, which he only left at intervals to give information to the

Queen, and to inspire her with confidence. To this resolution of the monarch, the metropolis was indebted for its deliverance; for, having called a council to consider the question, whether the military could be authorized in dispersing the mob without the previous form of reading the riot-act, the King alone decided the point by signing an order to that purpose. In consequence of this prompt measure, Lord Amherst proceeded vigorously against the rioters; and thus, in a short space, order was restored.

After these disgraceful scenes, their majesties removed to Windsor Lodge, where the Queen, on the twenty-second of September, being the anniversary of the coronation, was delivered of a son, who was baptized on the second of the following month, at St. James's, by the name of Alfred, the two elder princes standing as godfathers, and the princess-royal as godmother.

On the twenty-sixth of December, the royal family were gratified by the safe arrival of Prince William-Henry from the fleet; but this pleasure was damped in some measure, four days afterwards, by the departure of his brother Frederick for Germany, where his royal highness intended to continue some years, for the completion of his military studies. The parting scene at Buckingham House was represented as a very moving one: the King and Queen shed tears on taking leave of a favourite

lon; and the Prince of Wales, in particular, was so much concerned at being deprived, for a long period, of the sole companion of his youth, that he was several minutes unable to speak. This sensibility was not more indicative of innate goodness of heart than it was an evidence of the care that had been taken by their majesties to cultivate in the royal progeny a constant regard to the social affections. Indeed, such was the attention paid to this essential consideration, that nothing like warmth of temper, or the quick expression of resentment, was ever suffered in the royal presence. Both the King and Queen, on all occasions, preserved the utmost equanimity themselves; and whenever either of them happened to be offended, it was seen at once by a certain gravity of manner, and not discovered by an asperity of language. Hence, all the children acquired a similar spirit of self-command; and, what was of equal moment, they learnt from parental example to cherish for each other that esteem which has been the general characteristic of the family through life.

On the first of January, 1781, his royal highness the Prince of Wales was declared to be of age, and as such he appeared at court, which was much crowded in consequence; but more so on Her Majesty's birth-day, when the assemblage of fashion was splendid beyond what had been seen there for several years. In honour of the same circumstance,

the Queen, a month afterwards, gave a ball and supper at her palace, under the immediate direction of the Earl of Aylesbury, recently appointed chamberlain of the household. The evening's entertainment was preceded by a concert, at which were present, besides their majesties and the royal family, a select party, only of the nobility. At ten o'clock the company assembled, proceeded to the ball-room, which was nearly filled by persons of fashion, and a little after twelve the whole retired to supper in another room, where three tables were laid. At the first sat the King, the Queen, ladies of the bedchamber, the master of the horse, the lord chamberlain, and some other state officers immediately about the palace: at the second sat the Prince of Wales, with several of the younger nobility of both sexes; and at the third the secretaries of state and other persons of distinction.

But this festive scene was surpassed by the celebration of the Prince's birth day at Windsor, the same year. On the morning of the twelfth of August, the roads were covered with carriages filled with persons of rank and fashion, hastening to pay their homage on the glad occasion; and in the evening the terrace was so crowded, that their majesties and the princesses were obliged to retire into the castle, after walking about half-an-hour. The next day there was a grand review in the park, after which the royal family proceeded to St.

George's Hall, where they dined with about eighty of the nobility; and in the evening there was a grand supper and ball, which last did not break up till five in the morning. The town of Windsor was also illuminated, and the day closed with bonfires and other demonstrations of joy.

Among other improvements that took place at Windsor, under the direction of Her Majesty, at this time, was that of converting the gallery, called the Queen's closet, in the chapel, into a royal pew, for the accommodation of herself and the King during divine service—a point of duty, which, in their estimation, was of the first consequence, and in the discharge of which they were never known to fail.

Though Windsor had now the preference, Kew was not altogether neglected; and in this year the freehold of it was purchased for Her Majesty, from the descendants of Sir Richard Lovett, by whom it was bought in 1697. Up to the present date it had been held on a long lease, granted originally to Queen Caroline. Kew House, the residence for many years of Frederick, Prince of Wales, and his widow, was also purchased of the dowager Countess of Essex, by the King, on the expiration of the lease, with the view of erecting an extensive mansion on the scite, for the sole use of Her Majesty, who might be able to call it her own in the event of his demise.

About this time, Martin Sherlock, a literary coxcomb, indeed, but by no means an inaccurate deli-

neator of men and manners, thus sketched the character of Her Majesty in a letter to his French correspondent:

"Our Queen is neither a wit nor a beauty. She is prudent, well-informed, has an excellent understanding, and is very charitable. I spent three months in the country where she was born; and the people there have quick conceptions, and are well-natured. Her Majesty has an elegant person, good eyes, good teeth, a Cleopatra nose, and fine hair. The expression of her countenance is pleasing and interesting; it is full of sense and good-temper. She loves domestic pleasures; is fonder of diamonds than the Queen of France; as fond of snuff as the King of Prussia; is extremely affable, very pious, and is praised by all the world, at home and abroad."

This lively writer might have added, that the Queen of England did not affect splendour in her apparel; that she seldom wore jewels except on public ceremonies; and that, so far from devoting her hours to dress, she studied neatness and simplicity. Her conduct exactly resembled that of Cornelia, who, being asked by a Roman lady of rank for a sight of her toilet, waved the subject till her children came from school, and then said; "These, Madam, are my ornaments." In like manner did Her Majesty look upon the progeny which surrounded her, as a circle more valuable than diamonds; and she made it her constant ob-

ject to render them deserving of parental pride, by instilling into their minds the purest principles. The manner in which she trained them to knowledge and application may be gathered from a single incident which happened at this very period: when the Princess Mary, now between five and six years old, came running with a book in her hand, and tears in her eyes, to the Queen, saying: "Madam, I cannot comprehend it," Her Majesty, with true parental affection, looked upon the child, and told her not to be alarmed. "What you cannot comprehend to-day you may comprehend to-morrow; and what you cannot attain to this year you may arrive at the next. Do not, therefore, be frightened with little difficulties; but attend to what you do know, and the rest will come in time."

On the eighteenth of January, 1782, the drawing-room held for Her Majesty's birth-day was particularly brilliant, on account of the first public appearance of the princess-royal, who opened the ball with her brother. One feature worth observing on this occasion was the circumstance that his royal highness wore that day a richly embroidered waistcoat, embroidered by the hands of his august parent, who had a double pleasure in this performance; for, besides seeing her son adorned with the work of her own hands, she brought tambour into fashion, and thereby encouraged industry. Thus to her might have been applied the eulogium of the vir-

tuous woman in sacred writ: "She laid her hands to the spindle, and her hands held the distaff. She stretched out her hand to the poor; yea, she stretched forth her hand to the needy. She opened her mouth with wisdom, and her tongue was the law of kindness. She looked well to the ways of her household, and did not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rose up and called her blessed: her husband also, and he praised her."

But while their majesties were thus rejoicing in the introduction of the elder children on the theatre of public life, they experienced a damp in witnessing the declining state of the youngest prince, who, in the beginning of the summer, was sent by the direction of the physicians to the sea-side, without receiving any benefit; and, on the twenty-second of August, he expired in the arms of Lady Charlotte Finch, at Buckingham House, aged one year and ten months.

On the twenty-seventh, between six and seven in the morning, the body was conveyed in a private manner to Henry the Seventh's chapel in Westminster Abbey, and there interred in the royal vault, the service being read by the dean. At the time of this loss, the family was in mourning for Her Majesty's sister, who died of a lingering consumption, early in the summer. At the beginning of October, however, the Queen received the unexpected pleasure of seeing her brother, the Prince of

Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who, with his consort, came over to England, attended by some persons of distinction, and remained here several weeks.

In closing this chapter, and the history of the year, I am tempted to insert a little tale, which was written at this time by one whose pen has been since employed on many works of importance. The present is one of those narratives in which a slight historic fact serves as a basis for the construction of an interesting story. But, to proceed to the romance.

"In proportion as refinement proceeds, gallantry increases. The reign of the illustrious Alfred was not more favourable to heroism and science than to love. His son Edward possessed a large portion of his father's virtues; and while he sat upon the throne, cultivated those arts which Alfred had encouraged. His heart was susceptible of the tender passions, and of the power of beauty. In one of his excursions he met with a lovely shepherdess, named Egwina. The prince was captivated with her charms. Honour governed his actions, and subjected his desires to the controul of virtue. He wished to exalt her situation, not to debase her innocence. In short, he wished her for his queen; but this seemed impossible. He returned dejected to his palace: he regretted that high rank stood as a bar to his happiness: he consulted his favourite friend and minister: he urged the beauty, the virtue, the genius of Egwina, but all in vain.

The reply was, that policy required him to seek a union with some exalted character, allied to a powerful and wealthy prince; and that if he were to place a shepherdess on the throne, his nobles would be disgusted, quit his court, and probably proceed by open violence to resent the supposed insult to their dignity. The prince admitted that what was said was too likely to be the fact, and reprobated that pride which deemed an alliance with indigent and untitled virtue disgraceful; but he knew the prejudices of his nobility were unconquerable. He submitted, repining and reluctantly, to his fate; yet he frequently visited the shepherdess; and her conversation was his greatest delight. There was something mysterious to him in her deportment and accomplishments. She possessed the strictest appearance of innocence, without the least embarrassment. Though plainly attired, she stepped with superior grace; and in every action exhibited courtly propriety and ease. Though her observations were chiefly upon her flocks and rural happiness, yet she would occasionally surprise the prince with remarks upon astronomy, history, morals, and agriculture, which bespoke a mind informed above the common level. Thus engaging, it was not to be wondered at that every additional visit increased the admiration and astonishment of the enamoured Edward. His passions grew stronger every moment: his dignity was his torture: his friends and flatterers tried in vain to divert his thoughts or alleviate his distress.

The greatest beauties of his palace courted his smiles without effect: their charms served but to remind him of the superior ones of his beloved Egwina. Nothing induced him to retain existence but the trying task of parting, perhaps for ever, from his captivating shepherdess. He often thought to ask her for the story of her life, but dreaded that the narrative would only confirm his misery.

"Upon one of his visits, he missed her at the accustomed spot, but found a venerable old man attending on her sheep. The prince enquired eagerly for Egwina, and was informed that she was at a neighbouring cottage. She had acquainted her father that she often had a visitor when keeping her flocks in the fields; and from her description the old man conceived the prince to be the person, and accordingly invited him to their habitation. Edward, for a while, threw off his courtly ceremony, and accepted of the invitation. He went on with sorrowing steps, and yet would not have staid behind. The sight of the cottage damped him, but that of its fair tenant cheared his spirits. He found in the place neatness and rural elegance. He would have gladly parted with his dignity and power. He would have been happy to have changed his sceptre for a shepherd's crook, and his splendid palace for this humble residence. He was courted to refresh himself; but though the table was spread with healthful rustic dainties, he could not partake of the feast. Egwina's charms and conversation

were his regalement. He derived momentary comfort from the cause of his permanent misery. The old man apologized for the homeliness of his fare, imagining that to occasion the abstinence of his guest, and said, 'that once he could have entertained him better, but now he had little more to offer than a hearty welcome.' At these words, the hopes of the prince were raised: his attention was fixed to the story of their fortunes, which he begged the father to relate. The old man proceeded thus: 'I formerly was Earl of Morcar. Our family was of royal descent, and my possessions in lands, flocks, and herds, exceedingly extensive and valuable. I lived in becoming splendour; honoured by my illustrious and royal master, Alfred, justly styled the great. I was beloved by my neighbours, and happy in my family. My estate was situated on the borders of the Scottish lands, and frequently invaded by the highland plunderers. For a long time, my tenants and servants bravely repelled their attacks; but, at length increasing in their numbers, we were overpowered. They spoiled and ravaged all our lands, and drove away our flocks and herds, save a small portion, with which I hither flew to find security. Here have I since lived, suppressed my title, and passed myself for a poor old shepherd; this, my humble but affectionate daughter, the comfort and support of my declining years.' The prince struggled to conceal the sweet emotions which he felt at this narration, and asked the old man whether he had

applied at court for succour in his distress. His question was answered thus: 'No; my family, consisting but of myself and young Egwna, and my desires confined to narrow bounds, by the wise dictates of philosophy, I thought it unjust to ask of my country that support which industry could insure, and thus deprive more useful subjects of their just reward.' The prince admired the generous spirit of the venerable sage, told him he had interest at court, that the king wished to see him, and insisted that he and his daughter should hasten thither, which journey, after much hesitation, they agreed to undertake. It is impossible to describe the transports of young Edward on this occasion. He flew back to his palace, eager to prepare for his expected and welcome visitors. The scene was now changed from the most deep despondency to the most complete joy and felicity. At the appointed time, the old shepherd and his fair daughter arrived at court; and having recovered their surprise, the king introduced them in their rural habits. Time and disguise prevented the nobility from recollecting the earl; and Egwina had never been seen in public. As companions of the prince, the courtiers were obliged to receive them with civility; but their affected politeness could not conceal their absolute contempt. The court broke up, and the king again engaged in conversation with the earl. He requested to know whence his daughter derived so much knowledge; to which the earl replied: 'From my

own poor stock: as she was my sole companion, I thought it my interest as well as duty to teach her every science I knew. She had a comprehensive mind, and easily received instruction.' In a few days, the king assembled his courtiers again. He had previously advised with his councillors on the propriety of a marriage with an earl's daughter of royal descent, and received a favourable answer. He then introduced the old man as Earl of Morcar, and the shepherdess as his daughter Egwina. Shame seized the ungenerous nobility; but the kindness of the offended parties soon removed their embarrassment. Matters being duly prepared and settled between the king, the earl, and his daughter, Edward now declared his intention of espousing Egwina, and the ceremony was immediately performed. In a few days the coronation took place, and the royal shepherdess lived long, happy, and beloved, the Queen of England. At her death universal grief prevailed. But the people of those days lived for posterity, not for themselves, and were consoled by the prophecy of a favourite priest, which has proved strictly true, 'that in future times, a CHARLOTTE should arise that would restore to the English throne the majestic virtues of Egwina."

CHAPTER XIII.

Restoration of Peace.—Anecdote of the Queen.—Mr. Hutton and Dr. Franklin.—Death of Prince Octavius.—Birth of Princess Amelia.—City Address.—Mrs. Siddons at Buckingham House.—Commemoration of Handel.—Account of Mademoiselle Paradis.—Royal Visit to Nuneham and Oxford.—Death of Prince George of Mecklenburg.—Anecdote of Royal Benevolence.

With the new year, 1783, came in the blessing of peace, not more to the gratification of the public than of their majesties: and here I may be permitted to observe, that though the Queen had scrupulously avoided from the moment of her landing in England all interference in politics, the American war gave her much concern, and she endeavoured, with the knowledge of her royal consort, to procure a termination of the differences between the two countries. The instrument employed in this good work was Mr. James Hutton, a Moravian minister, in Fetter Lane, who had free access at Buckingham House; he being, in fact, Her Majesty's private almoner. Charity was the darling object of this ex-

traordinary man, whose whole life, which was prolonged to a patriarchal extent, was devoted to the benefit of his fellow-creatures. The benevolent disposition of Mr. Hutton, and his religious principles, rendered him a favourite at the Queen's house; and both their majesties delighted much in his cheerful and pious conversation. The society also to which he belonged was one for which the Queen ever entertained a predilection, as well on account of the discipline observed, as the doctrines professed by the United Brethren. The spirit of love which pervades the whole system, indeed, could not but render this branch of the Christian family acceptable to one who made it her constant study to mould her own temper after the purest of all patterns. Her Majesty did not, it is true, avow any connexion with the church of the brethren; nor was it needful that she should, since in faith, worship, and government, that community is in perfect unison with the national establishment. But to return to Mr. Hutton. This good man numbered among his many acquaintances the celebrated Dr. Franklin, with whom he had contracted an intimacy, when that extraordinary character was nothing more than a journeyman printer. Their friendship lasted through life; and it continued unabated even when Franklin rose to the station of a public agent, though in religious and political sentiments no two men could be more dissimilar. After the acknow-

ledgment of the American states by the court of France, and the admission there of Franklin as the minister of the new republic, Mr. Hutton opened a correspondence with him, with a view to conciliation. On the same mission he also went over to Paris by the way of Holland; but the man of politics was too much for the honest Christian; and the latter saw at last that the simplicity of the dove is no match when opposed to the cunning of the serpent. He was completely deceived by glosing professions; and all that he had to console him under the disappointment was the approbation of his illustrious employers, and the perfect conviction of their sincerity.

Happily, however, the victory of Rodney in the West Indies, and the defeat of the Spaniards before Gibraltar, made the allied powers in Europe as desirous of peace as the people of this country could be; and the preliminary articles with France being ratified, a general termination of this eventful and sanguinary conflict soon followed.

Shortly after this, their majesties sustained a severe shock in the loss of Prince Octavius, who died of the small pox at Kew, on the third of May, 1783, in the fifth year of his age. His royal highness was reckoned one of the finest of the royal progeny; and the portrait of him by Gainsborough warrants the opinion. He was besides remarkably docile in his disposition, and so very good-natured, as to be almost

idolized by the domestics. On the tenth of the same month the body was removed from Kew, attended by General Carpenter and some of His Majesty's household, to Henry the Seventh's chapel, and there deposited near the remains of Prince Alfred. The death of this engaging child had a very serious effect upon the spirits of the Queen, who being then in a pregnant state, felt the catastrophe more keenly and that to such a degree, as to render her recovery for some time exceedingly doubtful. At length, the excellence of her constitution triumphed over the malady, and on the seventh of August she was happily delivered of a daughter at Buckingham House.

On the nineteenth of the following month, at seven in the evening, the ceremony of christening the young princess was performed at St. James's Palace. The peers and peeresses, foreign ministers and their ladies, assembled in the Queen's drawing-room sometime before the ceremony, and from thence were introduced into the grand council-chamber, where Her Majesty sat on an elegant bed of white satin, under a superb canopy of crimson velvet embroidered with gold. On the right side of the bed stood the King, at the feet his royal highness the Prince of Wales, the Princess-Royal, and Princess Augusta; and on each hand the rest of the royal children, arranged according to their ages. The great officers of state, the royal attendants, fo-

reign ministers, peers, and peeresses, formed the outer circle. The service was performed by Dr. Moore, Archbishop of Canterbury; the Prince of Wales, Princess-Royal, and Princess Augusta being sponsors; the former acting as proxy for the Princess Amelia, whose name was given to the royal infant. After the baptismal ceremony, Her Majesty received the congratulations of the company, who, on the King's retiring, withdrew to visit the royal nursery, where, according to custom, they were entertained with cake and caudle. The brilliancy of this lively scene was heightened in effect by the appearance of the royal offspring round their august parents, forming altogether a spectacle not to be equalled in any part of Europe.

The corporation of London presented separate addresses to the King and Queen, in which were comprehended a threefold congratulation on the birth of a princess, the recovery of Her Majesty, and the attainment of the Prince of Wales to his twenty-first year. In their address to the King, the body corporate paid the following compliment: "We would express with more than ordinary effusions of joy our feelings upon this occasion, that Providence has been pleased to answer the prayers and wishes of every order of your majesty's loyal subjects, in preserving the invaluable life of our gracious Queen; a life so eminently useful, and so conspicuously exemplary."

The address to Her Majesty, which was carried up to St. James's by the lord-mayor, sheriffs, and a very numerous train of aldermen and common-council, ran in these words:

"We, the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London, in common council assembled, humbly beg leave to approach your majesty with the most sincere congratulations upon the birth of another princess, and your majesty's happy recovery.

"Permit us further, Madam, to congratulate your majesty upon his royal highness the Prince of Wales having attained his age of twenty-one years; and we sincerely hope and trust that he will fill the important station to which he is called with dignity to himself and prosperity to his country."

To this address a suitable though short answer was returned; and all the gentlemen had the honour to kiss Her Majesty's hand.

The celebrity of Mrs. Siddons, who at this time shone forth with extraordinary lustre as a tragic actress in London, frequently drew the royal family to the theatre; but one night, while that great performer was in a pathetic part of the character of Euphrasia, the business of the scene was strangely interrupted by a voice from the upper gallery, exclaiming: "Your Majesty had the goodness to promise me one of your blessed princesses in marriage." An uproar ensued, but the fellow by some means

or other escaped. Soon after this, Mrs. Siddons had an interview with the Queen at Buckingham House; when, at the express desire of both their majesties, she undertook the honourable office of instructing the two younger princesses in reading and enunciation.

The next year was rendered remarkable by the great musical festival instituted in commemoration of Handel, and conducted under the patronage of their majesties. The design of this extraordinary entertainment originated with two or three persons of distinction, who wished for a periodical celebration of that mighty master of harmony, in a public performance of his works, the profits of which were to be appropriated to the musical fund. This idea being suggested to others, and particularly the directors of the concert of ancient music, met with their entire approbation; but while the matter was yet in embryo, the King hearing of it, immediately expressed his resolution that the scheme should be carried into execution. Accordingly, application was made to Bishop Thomas, as Dean of Westminster, for the use of the abbey, who readily granted the request, on condition that a moiety of the profits of the first day should be given to the Westminster Infirmary. To this no objection could be made; and Mr. Wyatt, the architect, was directed to fit up the abbey with all expedition, for the accommodation of their majesties, the company, and the per-

formers. At first it was proposed to confine the entertainment within two days; but the King judging very properly that this would be too limited, signified his pleasure that the performance should be prolonged to another day; after which two more were added, the last being at the express desire of Her Majesty. The temporary building in the abbey was comprised within the west aisle, and was large enough to receive four thousand persons. At the upper end, a throne was erected in the Gothic style, with a center box for the royal family; another box on one side for the bishops and dignitaries of the church, and a third for the foreign ambassadors. Behind the throne were seats for the royal attendants, and below the King's box was one for the directors. The orchestra was built at the opposite extremity, ascending regularly, from the height of about seven feet above the floor, to forty feet from the ground; extending also from the centre to the top of the side aisles, and so admirably constructed, that Joah Bates, who presided at the new and magnificent organ, could see and be distinctly seen by the whole of the numerous band. The intermediate space was filled with level benches appropriated to the subscribers, and the side aisles were formed into long galleries ranging with the orchestra, and ascending, so as to contain twelve rows on each side; the fronts projecting beyond the pillars, and ornamented with crimson festoons.

On Wednesday, the twenty-sixth of May, this grand festival began; and before ten in the morning the company assembled in prodigious numbers, so that in about an hour the venerable pile was nearly filled, chiefly with ladies. Their majesties arrived about a quarter past twelve o'clock; and when the King came into his box, he stood for some moments seemingly lost in astonishment at the sublimity of the spectacle; nor did the brilliancy of the appearance less affect the feelings of the Queen, who viewed it with rapture, and repeatedly expressed her admiration to those around her. The royal pair were accompanied by prince Edward and the Princess-Royal, who sat on the King's right, and the princesses Augusta, Elizabeth, and Sophia, who sat on the Queen's left hand, all in one box, which was most superbly ornamented with crimson velvet.

The festival then began with the coronation anthem, in the execution of which were fully displayed the amazing powers of the band, consisting of more than five hundred performers. Mr. Bates, who was the conductor of the whole, appeared throughout so agitated and inflamed by the subject, that his instrument, though immense in its tones, could hardly give utterance to his ideas. Such was the first day's exhibition of this splendid entertainment. On the following evening, the festival was renewed at the Pantheon, which presented a most beautiful appearance; the dome being illuminated

with seven thousand lamps, in compartments, and terminating at the top of the cupola in a beautiful figure. Over the entrance, and directly opposite the orchestra, a gallery was erected, supported by six Ionic columns; and in the centre was placed the royal box, lined with crimson satin, and mirrors fringed with gold. About eight o'clock, their majesties, accompanied by Prince Edward and three of the princesses, arrived; soon after which the performance began, of which, it may be said, that if the music in the abbey was the *sublime*, this of the Pantheon was the *beautiful*, of Handel.

In this night's performance, Madame Mara displayed all the wonders of her voice, which reached even the compass of an instrument. The selection of pieces did infinite credit to the directors, and the execution was such as to leave no room for criticism. Mr. Bates played the organ with the same touch as he did at the abbey, and the harmony in all the parts was complete.

The next day was employed in the rehearsal of the Messiah, which master-piece of Handel was performed at the abbey on the twenty-ninth; and though to common ears familiarity of sounds takes away much from the effect produced by the charms of novelty, yet, on this occasion, almost every spectator felt indescribable sensations. Their majesties were attended by five princesses; and it was evident throughout the whole of the performance how

much they enjoyed the delicious banquet, to which might have been applied the language of the poet;

Such music (as 'tis said)
Before was never made,
But when of old the sons of morning sung,
While the Creator great,
His constellations set,
And the well-balanc'd world on hinges hung.

On the third of June, the performance, by the command of the King, consisted of a selection made under the direction of His Majesty; and on the fifth of the same month the commemoration concluded with the Messiah, by order of the Queen, when, though the crowd was less than on the preceding occasion, the exhibition was more splendid. Indeed, as a spectacle, it was so magnificent to the sight, and as a musical performance so mellifluous and grateful to the ear, that it would have been no less difficult for the mind's eye of those who were absent to form an adequate idea of the show, than for the mental ear to have formed any of the sounds from mere description.

There was an ingenious device in the manner of executing the music to "Lift up your heads, O ye gates," by causing the whole chorus from each side of the orchestra, in conjunction with all the instruments, to burst forth at once "He is the King of Glory," which had such an admirable effect, as

to bring tears into the eyes of several of the performers themselves. Nor was this effect confined to the orchestra: the whole auditory felt a sympathetic emotion; and His Majesty was pleased to make a signal himself for the repetition of this, and the final chorus in the last part. Thus ended this grand festival, the like of which had never been exhibited in any country; nor is it probable that any thing on such a scale will ever again recur.

The royal donation to the fund on this occasion was five hundred guineas, and the receipts exceeded twelve thousand pounds, out of which six thousand were given to the society for decayed musicians, and one thousand to the hospital.

Another festival took place at the abbey the following year; but though their majesties were present, and the spectacle, as well as the performance, had an impressive effect, the entertainment fell somewhat short of the former one, both in sublimity and produce; and after three or four exhibitions of the same nature, they ceased entirely, owing, as was alleged, to apprehensions for the safety of the church.

The present subject naturally introduces the remarkable story of a blind lady, who, at the period of which we are speaking, excited considerable attention in the musical world. This young person was the daughter of M. Paradis, aulic counsellor in the imperial service. At the age of two years and

eight months she became suddenly blind, through a fright; and though the most skilful oculists in Venice were applied to, the case was found to be hopeless. At seven years old she discovered an ear for music, which taste being encouraged, she was able at the age of ten to accompany herself on the organ in the Stabat Mater of Pergolesi, of which she sung a part at St. Augustine's Church, in the presence of the empress-queen, Maria Theresa, who was so touched with her misfortune and performance, that she settled a pension on her for life, of which provision she was afterwards deprived in a most extraordinary manner. At the age of eighteen, the noted Dr. Mesmer, who pretended to cure all ills by animal magnetism, undertook to restore sight to the unfortunate Mademoiselle Paradis; an offer which was gladly accepted, and she was placed under his care as a boarder. After some months, however, it was found that the professions of this empiric were fallacious, and his patient was taken from his house, which so exasperated Mesmer, that he had the audacity and cruelty to charge the poor girl with being an impostor, saying that she could see as well as himself, and that she only counterfeited blindness to retain her pension. Strange as it may seem, this abominable falsehood was believed; or, if not, it was made the pretext for withdrawing the pension; in consequence of which, the helpless victim of quackery left Vienna with her

mother, and after visiting several courts on the continent, where her talents and misfortunes procured her many favours, she came over to London, bringing with her letters of recommendation to the Queen, upon whom she waited at Windsor, and was received with the utmost kindness. Her Majesty took a most lively interest in the young stranger, who, under such patronage, became an object of notice among the nobility, and in consequence acquired a handsome independence.

On Monday, the fifteenth of October, 1785, their majesties, with the princes Ernest, Augustus, and Adolphus; the Princess-Royal, princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, paid a visit to Lord and Lady Harcourt at Nuneham, with the intention of returning to Windsor the same evening; but the conversation happening to turn upon Oxford, and the Queen saying she should like to see a place of which she had heard so much, it was resolved to go thither in a private manner the next day. Accordingly, the royal party slept at Nuneham that night, and on Tuesday morning, about ten o'clock, their majesties, with their children and the Earl and Countess of Harcourt, arrived at Oxford in five carriages; and passing through the fields behind Merton College, alighted at Christ Church, and entering the cathedral at prayer-time, took their seats during divine service, after which they were conducted to the hall, the dean's apartments, and the library. From

Christ Church, they proceeded to Corpus-Christi College, where Dr. Dennis, the vice-chancellor, and president of St. John's, preceded by the beadles with their staves inverted, paid his respects to their majesties, and attended them to Merton College, and thence to the Radclivian library. Their majesties from hence entered the public schools at the eastern gates, and passing through the divinity-school, were ushered into the theatre, where the heads of houses, and the doctors in their several faculties, were already assembled. In the area of this magnificent room the royal family were seated for some time; and the vice-chancellor, with the several heads of colleges and the proctors, had the honour of kissing their majesties' hands. The Bodleian library was next visited; and from thence the royal party were conducted to the picture-gallery; after which, they saw the Pomfret and Arundelian marbles, and the music-school, where the professor had the honour of kissing hands. On leaving these public edifices, their majesties went to see the chapel and library at New College; from whence they passed through the gardens into the library, chapel, and hall of St. John's, and next to the observatory. From this place the family proceeded to the council-chamber, where the mayor and corporation of Oxford attended to pay their respects to the royal visitors; and the former had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him. Their

majesties from hence visited All Souls, Queen's, and Magdalen Colleges; and, having seen the chapels, libraries, and whatever was most worthy of observation, they quitted Oxford for Lord Harcourt's, where an elegant cold collation waited their arrival; and they set out for Windsor about seven the same evening.

In the following winter, the Queen received the afflicting news of the death of her youngest brother, Prince George of Mecklenburg; on which account the celebration of Her Majesty's birth-day was put off to the ninth of February, when an elegant court assembled early, to pay the usual marks of loyalty and affection. In the evening the ball-room was highly splendid, and exhibited an uncommon display of female beauty. The King and Queen separately addressed every lady within the circle assigned to the dancers; during which period a prelude was played, and also some of Handel's music. The ball terminated between twelve and one, after which their majesties and the princesses retired. The prince remained some time in conversation with the ladies, and on his withdrawing, the company began immediately to depart; but it was not till near three in the morning that the court was entirely cleared. The most remarkable person at the ball was the ambassador from Tripoli, attended by his page of honour and secretary: all of them were dressed in the habits of their country, and

appeared much delighted and astonished at the crowd of beauties that surrounded them; nor were they less objects of wonder to our fair countrywomen, who beheld with admiration the flowing beard of the venerable Musulman.

From the scene of joy and splendour, the reader will not be offended at being conducted to one of woe and wretchedness, where royalty will be seen in more lustre than when surrounded by a circle of courtiers.

The winter of this year was a very severe one; but though the snow lay thick upon the ground, the King did not intermit his customary walks, in which he was frequently unattended, even by a single servant. One day, during this cheerless season, he met two little boys, the eldest not more than nine years old, who, without knowing whom they addressed, fell upon their knees, and prayed for relief, as they were very hungry and had nothing to eat. His Majesty, shocked at the sight, tenderly desired the weeping suppliants to rise, and having encouraged them to proceed in their story, they said that their mother had been dead three days, and still lay unburied; that their father himself was stretched by her side upon a bed of straw, in a sick and helpless condition, being totally destitute of money, bread, and fuel.

This little story of misery touched the heart of the King, who ordered the boys to go before him to their wretched hovel, where he found the whole

realized to the utmost extent of human misery—the mother being dead, apparently from the want of common necessaries, and the father ready to perish also, being unable to raise himself; but still encircling with his enfeebled arm the deceased partner of his woes.

The King dropped a tear at the sad spectacle, left what cash he had about him. which seldom amounted to much, and hastened back to Windsor, where he related to Her Majesty what he had seen; and servants were instantly despatched with a supply of provisions, clothing, coals, and every other accommodation that might afford comfort to a family, groaning, as the King declared, under afflictions more piercing by far than he could have supposed to exist in any part of his dominions, and which he could hardly believe to have any reality in a Christian country, had he not himself witnessed them.

Revived by the bounty of the monarch, the poor man soon recovered; and his Majesty finished the good work he had so graciously begun, by giving orders that the children should be clothed, educated, and supported, at his expense, with the farther intention of providing for them as their conduct merited.

CHAPTER XIV.

Their Majesties Sponsors for the Daughter of Lord Salisbury.—Birth-day of the King.—Present of Jewels from an Eastern Prince.—Attempt to assassinate the King.—Conduct of the Spanish Ambassador.—Their Majesties' visit to Nuneham, Oxford, and Blenheim.—Royal Patronage of Sunday Schools.—Account of Mrs. Trimmer.—Economy of Charity.—Gainsborough the Painter.—Visit to Mr. Whitbread.—Private Theatricals.—Trial of Warren Hastings.—Indisposition of the King.—Their Majesties visit Cheltenham.—Anecdotes.—Royal Visits to Gloucester and Worcester.—Departure from Cheltenham.

The Countess of Salisbury being delivered of a daughter, after an interval of sixteen years, occasioned great rejoicings in that noble family; and the christening, which took place on the twenty-seventh of April, 1786, at his lordship's house in Arlington Street, was distinguished in a very remarkable manner, their majesties, with the princess-royal, attending as sponsors in person.

The Queen received the child from Lady Essex, and the archbishop from Her Majesty, who, at the same time, gave it the name of Georgiana-Charlotta; which was also inscribed on a superb salver,

of one hundred and twenty ounces weight, as a token of remembrance from the royal guests.

On this occasion Her Majesty was habited in dark green covered with silver gauze, and her head-dress appeared spangled with brilliants.

The King's birth-day this year was celebrated with extraordinary magnificence, the circle being enlivened by the presence of the Prince of Mecklenburg, and other foreigners of distinction, among whom the Tripoline ambassador attracted considerable notice. Her Majesty on this day wore a robe of royal purple, entirely covered with Brussels lace of great value; and on no similar occasion was she known to have been so richly dressed; but what heightened the magnificence of her appearance was a bouquet composed solely of brilliants. This was a present recently sent over to the King from the Nizam of the Deccan, and not, as was malevolently reported, an offering made to Her Majesty by that much injured man, the late Mr. Hastings. With this bulse or packet of jewels came over also six pair of crown birds of the most beautiful description; and so very rare, that it was said they cost the prince who sent them a sum little short of four thousand pounds.

The attempt made upon the King's life by an insane woman, named Margaret Nicholson, on the second of August, this year, drew more loyal addresses to the throne than perhaps were ever known

upon any former occasion. Fortunately, the Queen was unacquainted with what had happened till informed of it by her royal consort himself. This was owing to an admirable presence of mind in the Marquis del Campo, the Spanish ambassador, who, the moment he heard of the occurrence, went post to Windsor, and obtained an interview of the Queen; not as a man of ordinary sagacity would have done, to assure Her Majesty that the King had received no injury from the knife of the assassin, but solely to engage her in conversation, and thereby to prevent her from hearing any thing of the transaction till the King's arrival. In this design he happily succeeded, and then took leave of their majesties, leaving the King to tell the story himself. His Majesty shook his excellency very heartily by the hand, and assured him that he hardly knew any man in the world to whom he was so much obliged.

On the fifteenth of the same month, their majesties, with the three eldest princesses, paid a second visit to Lord and Lady Harcourt at Nuneham, where they arrived about noon, and spent great part of the day in viewing the new improvements carrying on at that delightful seat. The next day being Sunday, after attending divine service at Nuneham, the King, Queen, and princesses, set out for Oxford, where they arrived about half past one o'clock, and were received by the vice-chancellor, the Duke of Marlborough, and the officers of the University,

who ushered them into the divinity-school, from whence in grand possession they entered the theatre, where the King took the chancellor's chair, the Queen and the princesses being seated at his righ hand. After a voluntary had been played on the organ, the vice-chancellor approached the throne with an address on His Majesty's happy deliverance, to which the King made this reply:

"Such dutiful sentiments on my second visit to this seat of learning, accompanied by affectionate congratulations on the protection of divine Providence, manifested by the failure of the attempt on my life, call forth my warmest thanks. I am not less sensible of your expressions towards the Queen. The University of Oxford may ever depend on my inclination to encourage every branch of science; as the more my subjects are enlightened, the more they must be attached to the excellent constitution established in this realm."

This unpremeditated reply, uttered in a very feeling and impressive manner, had a sensible effect upon all who heard it; and indeed it must have satisfied every one that the mind from whence such expressions flowed could be of no ordinary character.

On leaving the theatre, the royal party went to take a second view of the New College and its beautiful windows; after which they visited Wadham and Trinity Colleges, at which last they par-

took of an elegant collation in the hall. From thence they went to Lincoln and Brasenose Colleges, and next to the council chamber of the city, to receive the corporation with their address. After inspecting the library and pictures at Christ Church, the royal party returned to Nuneham to dinner, about six o'clock. The next morning their majesties honoured the Duke of Marlborough with a visit at Blenheim; and on their entrance into the park from Woodstock were saluted with the firing of eleven cannon, on the side of the Great Lake. The duke and duchess, with their family, awaited the arrival of the royal visitors on the steps of the grand entrance, and conducted them through the great hall, saloon, and suite of rooms on the west side, to a splendid collation prepared for them in the library. Their majesties proceeded from thence to view the principal apartments of that noble monument of national gratitude; after which they drove round the park, and having surveyed it at the most striking points of view, they alighted near the cascade, where they spent some time in admiring the improvements recently made by the duke, who received many compliments from his august visitors on the excellence of his taste. The party then returned to the house, where they spent some time in examining the observatory, with its ample apparatus, and then took leave of lenheim for Nuneham.

On the thirty-first of October, the Princess Amelia died at her house in Cavendish Square, in the seventy-sixth year of her age. She was the second daughter and last surviving issue of George the Second, and his Queen Caroline. Her royal highness was born on the tenth of June, 1711, was never married, and had lived many years in rather a private manner. She had a singular presentiment that she should die in October, it being the month that her father died: and it was not a little remarkable that her favourite brother, the Duke of Cumberland, should be carried off by an apoplectic stroke on the very same day of the month. In the evening of the eleventh of November, her remains were privately interred in the royal vault in Henry the Seventh's chapel at Westminster.

The attention of the public about this time being much excited by the success of Sunday schools, Her Majesty, who was ever ready to encourage all practicable plans for the improvement of the rising generation, expressed a desire to learn some particulars on the subject from Mr. Raikes, the founder of those institutions. That gentleman accordingly waited upon the Queen at Windsor, and in a long conference developed the whole of the system, with an account of the manner in which it originated. Her Majesty was much interested in the explanation; and at the conclusion observed that she envied,

those who had the power of doing good, by thus personally promoting the welfare of society, in giving instruction to the general mass.

Conformably to this benevolent and exalted sentiment, when Her Majesty was informed that Mrs. Trimmer, of Brentford, had laboured with great success in the establishment of Sunday schools, and schools of industry, she signified her wish to see that excellent woman, who in her Diary thus notes the circumstance: "November the nineteenth, 1786. I have this day had the unexpected honour of attending Her Majesty, and had inexpressible pleasure in her sensible, humane, and truly Christian conversation. May her pious design of establishing Sunday schools at Windsor be put in execution!"

Among other particulars in this edifying conversation, the Queen took notice of the want of some practical book on the proper method of distributing and regulating charity. Hortatory discourses on the duty of benevolence and alms-giving, she observed, were sufficiently numerous; but persons disposed to do good were at a loss for directions how to carry their intentions into effect, in the most satisfactory manner, without the danger of suffering by imposition.

The result of this discourse was a desire that Mrs. Trimmer would publish a work on this express subject; with which she readily complied, and of

which she afterwards gave this account, in a letter to one of her friends:

"As you express your approbation of the Economy of Charity, I will give you a little history of the occasion of my writing it. Sometime in the last autumn I received a message from the Queen, desiring me to attend her at a certain hour; and I accordingly waited on Her Majesty, who received me with the most condescending kindness, and told me she had heard of the success of the schools under my inspection; and being very anxious for their establishment at Windsor, desired to have information from me on the subject. I was honoured with a conference of two hours. It is impossible to do justice to the charming manner in which the Queen expressed the most benevolent sentiments, and the tenderest regard for the happiness of the poor. My Economy was written in consequence of this interview, and I was allowed to dedicate it to Her Majesty."

Mrs. Trimmer's correspondent says in her answer, "Your favour rejoiced my heart, for I look on Her Majesty's sending for you as a most happy circumstance. Your abilities, the excellency of your heart, and your zeal for promoting virtue, are such that no one could be more judiciously chosen. I hope in God our beloved Queen will be the patroness of the Sunday schools: it is an event most devoutly to be wished: her example will cause them to be uni-

versal: they will soon be extended over the whole kingdom."

This good lady's wish was accomplished; for the Queen not only gave her name and sanction to these institutions, but she took a lively concern in them; and it rejoiced her much that she had found a woman so eminently qualified to assist her benevolent intentions as Mrs. Trimmer was in every respect.

The following letter to a lady, who enjoyed the particular confidence of Her Majesty, shews how sensible Mrs. Trimmer was of the honour conferred upon her, and with what ardour she laboured to turn it most effectually into the means of promoting the welfare of her fellow creatures:

"I return you many thanks," says she, "for your kind attentions in sending to Mr. Gainsborough's the ticket which Her Majesty had the goodness to give me for the abbey. I was very fortunate in being seated agreeably to my wishes; and need not tell you that the entertainment far exceeded the highest idea I had been able to form of it. I feel myself particularly happy in the honour Her Majesty does me, in desiring to have the plan of our Brentford schools adopted at Windsor. Every day's experience convinces me more and more of the great *national* benefits which may be expected to arise from this mode of giving religious instruction to the poor; and as Her Majesty has graciously

condescended to become a patroness to the institution, in the place of her own immediate residence, it would be a public misfortune should it fail *there*, through want of vigilance in the conductors of it; the only circumstance, I think, that can render it ineffectual. Whenever it is convenient for you, Madam, I shall be happy to see you; and if you can point out any way in which my humble services may be useful in promoting the accomplishment of Her Majesty's benevolent wish for the success of the Windsor schools, I shall gladly embrace the opportunity of exerting them. I have the happiness to see the powerful efficacy of royal example, in the flattering attention paid to my Economy of Charity. Numerous applications have been made since the publication of it, by ladies who are blessed with the means of doing good, for information respecting the plans proposed in it; and as far as I have had an opportunity of observing, a general joy prevails among the conductors of Sunday schools, that Her Majesty deigns to give an additional proof of her tender compassion for the lowest of the people, by noticing the institution."

The school of industry formed by Mrs. Trimmer at Brentford, about this time, gave great pleasure to their majesties, who visited it in person, and behaved in the kindest manner to the children.

This charity, as its name imported, combined the two great objects of religious instruction and useful

employment; the latter consisting chiefly of spinning flax with a wheel upon a new construction, the mechanism of which was narrowly inspected, and much admired by the King.

Of the excellence of the principle on which the royal acts of benevolence were regulated, a very striking evidence appeared in the dresses worn at court on new year's day, 1787, by Her Majesty and the two elder princesses: the lace and materials being the entire manufacture of the female establishment, supported at the sole expense of the Queen, for bringing up in an accomplished manner the daughters of poor clergymen and decayed tradesmen. It should be here added, that besides this, and a number of other schools, Her Majesty instituted another about this time at Windsor, for the maintenance of upwards of twenty girls, who on Easter Sunday received new cloathing and presents, according to the progress which they had made, and the character they bore upon examination. The object of this seminary was to train up young females as household servants in good families.

Thus did the Queen regulate all her charities with discretion, and direct them on a steady plan of utility, for the benefit of the public, as well as of the individuals who were assisted and supported by her bounty.

The charge of the archangel to the protoplast of

the human race seems to have been ever in her mind:

> ———Only add
> Deeds to thy knowledge answering; add faith,
> Add virtue, patience, temperance; add love,
> By name to come call'd CHARITY, the soul
> Of all the rest; then wilt thou not be loth
> To leave this Paradise, but shalt possess
> A Paradise within thee happier far.

The Queen continued to hold Mrs. Trimmer in great esteem through life, on account of her talents, and the use which she made of them; but the partiality was increased perhaps by the circumstance that the father of this accomplished woman, the late Mr. Joshua Kirby, had the honour of teaching both their majesties the art of drawing in perspective; and it should be mentioned also, that he was the means of introducing Gainsborough to the royal patronage, which that excellent artist ever remembered with gratitude; and just before his death he made it his request to be buried in Kew churchyard, near the grave of his friend.

Gainsborough appears to have been the favourite painter of Her Majesty, for whom he executed an admirable whole-length of the King; he painted also most of the princes and princesses. The last commission which he received from the Queen was for a

portrait of the Duke of York; and this marked attention Gainsborough always dwelt upon with great delight and exultation.

On the twenty-sixth of June, this year, their majesties, accompanied by the three elder princesses, and the Dukes of Montagu and Ancaster, went to view the porter-brewery of Mr. Whitbread in Chiswell Street. They were received at the door by Mr. Whitbread and his daughter; when, after politely declining the breakfast that had been provided, they immediately went over the buildings. The steam-engine took up their attention above half-an-hour, during which time the King explained the leading movements of the machinery in a manner that clearly shewed his scientific knowledge. The stone cistern raised such wonder, that the Queen and princesses would needs go into it, though with some difficulty, as the aperture was very small; but the sight abundantly rewarded them for their trouble, the vessel being of such capacity as to hold four thousand barrels of beer.

After minutely viewing every part of the premises, they retired to the dwelling-house, and partook of a handsome cold collation, on a service of plate. The board was furnished with every kind of wine; and there was that, without which the regalement would not have been complete, old porter poured from a bottle of extraordinary size. At two o'clock the royal party left Chiswell Street, highly gratified

with their reception, and the plain, hospitable manner of Mr. Whitbread, who was no less delighted with the affability and condescension of his illustrious visitors.

A very novel and agreeable entertainment took place a few days after this, at the Queen's house, where, in the great cartoon chamber, Mr. John Kemble and his sister read the whole of the comedy of the Jealous Wife, in the presence of their majesties, and a select party of the nobility; Mrs. Siddons taking the parts of Mrs. Oakley, Major Oakley, Harriet, Russet, and Lord Trinket; her brother reading Mr. Oakley, Paris, and John. The reading commenced about nine o'clock, and ended a little before twelve; but, during the acts, the company took refreshments, which were laid out abundantly in the adjoining rooms.

It should be observed, that at this period there was an extraordinary rage for private theatricals, and many persons of distinction were ambitious of the sock and buskin. Several domestic theatres were erected, where these amateurs of the drama displayed their histrionic talents to brilliant assemblages of applauding friends. Among the nobility who patronized this fashionable species of amusement, the late Duke of Richmond was by far the most prominent and spirited; and his house may truly be said to have been completely crowded through the season. Their majesties, with five prin-

cesses, honoured this theatre with their presence more than once: the first time to see Murphy's comedy of the Way to Keep Him, and the last Mrs. Centlivre's lively play of the Wonder. At the former exhibition, an appropriate prologue and epilogue were spoken, the latter written by General Burgoyne, and delivered by the Honorable Mrs. Damer, concluded with the following allusive lines:

Such are the gifts th' attentive loves should bring;
A hoop of gems to guard the bridal ring.
Need I here point to virtues more sublime;
Unchang'd by fashion, unimpair'd by time;
To higher duties of connubial ties,
To mutual blessings that from duties rise?
Your looks, your hearts, the bright assemblage own,
Which Heav'n to emulative life has shown,
And plac'd in double lustre on a throne.

This year was rendered remarkable by the commencement of the trial of Warren Hastings; at the opening of which, the Queen, in a very plain dress, accompanied by the princesses Augusta, Elizabeth, and Mary, appeared in the gallery of the Duke of Newcastle. It was indeed a spectacle worthy of royal curiosity, as well for the splendour of the scene itself, as for the combination of talents which it called forth; and yet who is there that now looks back upon this pompous exhibition with any other feelings than those of admiration at a sight pro-

nounced by the ancient moralist as the sublimest in the world—that of a good man struggling with adversity.

Through life, the King had enjoyed an almost uninterrupted state of good health, owing to habitual regularity and exercise; but in the middle of the summer, this year, he began to complain of indigestion and bilious symptoms, for which he was advised to try the waters of Cheltenham. Accordingly, Bayshill Lodge, built for the late Earl of Fauconberg, was taken for their majesties, who, on the twelfth of July, with the Princess-Royal, Princess Augusta, and Princess Elizabeth, set out from Windsor, a quarter before seven in the morning, and proceeded to Lord Harcourt's seat in Oxfordshire, where they staid about two hours, and then continued their journey to Cheltenham, which place they reached a little before five in the afternoon. The next day being Sunday, the royal family attended divine service at the parish church, where a sermon was preached by Dr. Samuel Hallifax, Bishop of Gloucester. On the following morning, about six o'clock, the King was upon the walks at Cheltenham, and drank the water; which early hour was his daily custom during his stay; and after breakfast he rode out with the Queen and princesses, making excursions round the country, but generally appearing again on the walks between six and seven in the evening.

On the sixteenth, after going to the Spa, the royal visitors, with their suit, set out for Tewkesbury, where they viewed the inside of the church, with what else was worthy of attention, and returned to Cheltenham. As His Majesty rode into Tewkesbury, the people stood upon the walls of the bridge to see him pass; on which, the monarch observing the danger of the situation, humanely addressed them in these words: "My good people, I am afraid that some of you may fall. Don't run such hazards for the sake of seeing your king. I will ride as slowly as you please, that you may all see him."

On the nineteenth, their majesties and the princesses went to Cirencester, and from thence to Oakley Grove, the delightful and classical seat of Lord Bathurst, with the beauty of which they were highly pleased.

The city of Gloucester next had the honour of a royal visit, where their majesties and the three princesses were received at the episcopal palace by the bishop, who, attended by the dean and chapter, addressed the King on the occasion, as also did the mayor and corporation, all of whom kissed the King's hand, and were introduced by him to the Queen. Their majesties afterwards visited the cathedral and the deanry, where the King entered into a good deal of conversation with the venerable Dr. Josiah Tucker, the dean, who made many apo-

logies for the unprepared condition of his house, and particularly the library, which was indeed in a ludicrous state of confusion. From thence the royal party returned to the palace; and after waiting a short time for the carriages, returned in the afternoon to Cheltenham.

On the following Tuesday, their majesties and the princesses dined with the Earl of Coventry, who displayed all the hospitality of the ancient nobility in the reception of his illustrious guests; for, besides the splendid entertainment within the house, he caused the cellar doors to be thrown open to regale the immense multitudes that were assembled on the outside.

At an early hour, on the second of August, the King and Queen rode to Hartlebury Castle, the episcopal residence of Bishop Hurd, with whom they breakfasted; after which, they walked through the grounds, and remained for some time upon the terrace, to gratify the numerous spectators who flocked thither from all parts of the country. On the fifth, their majesties again visited the bishop at his palace in the city, for the purpose of attending the musical meeting of the three choirs of Worcester, Gloucester, and Hereford. The next morning the King received the clergy in the great hall, when the bishop, after addressing His Majesty, made a complimentary speech to the Queen, who replied in a very gracious manner; after which, the

reverend body had the honour to kiss her hand, as they also did that of His Majesty. At eleven the cathedral service began, in which was introduced the overture in Esther, Handel's Dettingen Te Deum, and the Coronation Anthem. Their majesties sat upon an occasional throne, the nobility, clergy, and magistrates, being disposed on each side. Thursday morning the royal family were again present at the cathedral, when a selection from the music of Handel was most ably performed. On Friday morning, the corporation, conducted by Lord Coventry, as the recorder, waited on the King, to request that he would honour them with a visit at the town hall, to which His Majesty graciously assented, and a grand procession accordingly took place; the various trades with their streamers leading the way, the maces borne by the aldermen, and the mayor carrying the sword of state. After viewing the pictures, the regalia, and every thing curious, His Majesty was shewn into the grand parlour, where an elegant cold collation was provided. As it was known that the King never took any liquor before dinner, the mayor asked him if he would be pleased to take a jelly, when His Majesty replied: "I do not recollect ever drinking a glass of wine before dinner in my life, yet, upon this pleasing occasion, I will venture." A glass of rich old mountain being then served by the mayor, His Majesty immediately drank "prosperity to the corporation

and citizens of Worcester." This was no sooner made known to the populace, than a universal shout of acclamation arose, which continued for several minutes. The King then addressing himself to the corporation, asked whether there was any thing that he could oblige them with; upon which, the Earl of Coventry, in his capacity of recorder, replied on the behalf of his fellow-citizens, "that they tendered their sincere and grateful thanks for the honour His Majesty had done the city of Worcester; and that if he would be graciously pleased to sit for his picture, to be placed in their hall, he would gratify their highest wishes." To this the King answered, "Certainly, gentlemen, I cannot hesitate to grant you that favour, or any other which you can reasonably expect."

The picture was accordingly sent, and two others, one of the King, and the other of the Queen, as presents to the bishop, by whom they were placed in the great drawing-room of the episcopal palace, with a commemorative inscription, written by his lordship.

The visit to the corporation being ended, the royal family again repaired to the cathedral, where the Messiah was performed, which concluded the musical festival; and in the evening there was a grand miscellaneous concert, which the royal visitors honoured with their presence. The next morning their majesties and the princesses left Worcester;

and at going away, the Queen put fifty pounds into the hands of the bishop for the poor of the city, in addition to the same sum from the King, who also gave three hundred pounds towards releasing the debtors in the city and county jails.

Early on Thursday morning, the sixteenth, their majesties left Cheltenham, to visit Lord Ducie and Sir George Paul, of which previous intimation had been given. They passed through Painswick about half after eight, and arrived at Stroud between nine and ten. Every testimony of attachment that a well-affected people could shew was evinced on this joyful occasion; and a very respectable party of gentlemen conducted the royal visitants through the clothing district, exerting themselves in exhibiting the objects peculiar to this part of the county. After a most condescending attention to the whole process of the woollen manufacture, their majesties and the princesses partook of a dejeune at Hill House, and then proceeded to Spring Park, the seat of Lord Ducie, where they were entertained with a cold collation.

On Friday evening, which was the last their majesties spent at Cheltenham, they honoured the theatre with a visit, and received the gratulations of the audience with the utmost courtesy. Early the next morning they took leave of the town, which had been enlivened by their presence; and where, during their stay, they endeared themselves to all

ranks of people by their condescension and goodness. When the King first went thither, he was asked what guards should accompany him, which question he answered by saying, "I shall take none: can I have better guards than my people?"

One morning, when His Majesty was taking his usual walk alone, after drinking the water, he met a farmer in a great hurry. "So, friend," said the King, "you seem to be very warm."—"Yes, Sir," said the man, "I came a long way; for I want to see the King."—"Well, my friend," observed His Majesty, "here is something to refresh you after your journey," giving him half a guinea. "But where, worthy Sir," said the man, "can I see the King?"—"Friend," replied the monarch, "you see him before you."

CHAPTER XV.

Illness of the King.—His Majesty removed to Kew.—He is entrusted to the Care of Dr. Willis.—Jealousy of the other Physicians.—Resentment of Dr. Warren.—Discussions in Parliament on the Regency.—Anxious Care of the Queen.—Her Fortitude.—Recovery of the King.—Address to Her Majesty.—Illuminations.—Cowper's Poem.—Drawing-Room.—Conduct of Bishop Watson.—Anecdotes of Mr. Justice Hardinge.—Queen's Gala at Windsor.—Visit to Covent-Garden Theatre.—Procession to St. Pauls.—Princess-Royal's Fête.—Galas of the French and Spanish Ambassadors.—King's Birth-Day.—Singular Occurrence in the Ball Room.

The joy occasioned by the apparent improvement of His Majesty's health was soon converted into gloom on its being known that the royal functions were suspended.

On the twenty-first of August, a drawing-room was held at St. James's, which was very much crowded by the nobility, who offered their congratulations on the amended state of the King; but appearances were fallacious, and in the middle of October His Majesty was attacked with fever and other complaints of a bilious kind, but not so as to prevent him from attending a levee on the twenty-fourth of the same month, when the court was again very numerous. In the evening of that day, the

King returned to Windsor, where the malady increased to such an alarming degree, that at the beginning of November Sir George Baker found it necessary to call in Dr. Warren, and Mr. Battiscombe, of Windsor; the latter at the express desire of His Majesty himself. On the arrival of Dr. Warren at the Queen's Lodge, he found Dr. Heberden there, who, as residing near Windsor, had been invited to the consultation by Her Majesty, with whom that excellent physician was always a great favourite. The result of this meeting was the application of a blister to the head of the royal patient, who as yet retained the possession of his senses, though he complained much of an intolerable oppression on the brain. In spite of bleeding, topical applications, and James's powders, the fever continued with unabated violence, and delirium naturally ensued. Towards the end of the month, however, advantage was taken of a temporary calmness to remove His Majesty from Windsor to Kew, which journey he bore extremely well; but the disorder remained the same, or at least with very little abatement. By this time it was deemed necessary to procure additional medical assistance; and among the rest Dr. Francis Willis, of Stretford, near Grantham, in Lincolnshire, whose celebrity in the treatment of mental diseases induced the Lord Chancellor Thurlow to recommend him to Her Majesty. The doctor was a clergyman, and rector of St. John's, Wapping, which living he obtained as

an option, in right of his fellowship, from Brasenose College, Oxford. Previous to this, he resided on a small donative in Lincolnshire, where, having a turn for physic, he was enabled to be of service to his parishioners. The success of his practice, particularly in disorders of the brain, increased the number of his patients, which roused the jealousy of the faculty to such a pitch, that they threatened him with a prosecution. Indignant at such unworthy usage, he proceeded to his bachelor's degree in physic at Oxford, and thus became more than a match for the Scotch doctors, who envied his reputation. After this, he took a large mansion for the reception of lunatics; and many, who had been pronounced incurable by men of eminence, were by his treatment restored to reason and their friends.

But though Dr. Willis was neither an obscure nor an empirical practitioner, his appointment in the present instance excited much jealousy in some of the royal physicians, particularly Dr. Warren, who could not even conceal his resentment within moderate bounds. The difference in their opinions respecting the disorder of the King, and its probable duration, tended to inflame the passions of Dr. Warren, who was naturally of a warm temperament; and when he perceived that the person, whom he looked upon as an intruder, possessed the confidence of the Queen, he became irritated to excess. The reason of this partiality towards Dr. Willis was

sufficiently obvious, and amiable, since it arose from the encouragement given by him to Her Majesty's hopes in the assurance which he held out of a speedy recovery; whereas Dr. Warren took a gloomy view of the case, and at last pronounced it absolutely desperate. The rest of the physicians acted with greater caution in the delivery of their judgment, and with more liberality towards Dr. Willis, who, however, found his situation extremely critical and difficult under such peculiar circumstances, and amidst such jealous associates.

In the mean time, the situation of the sovereign came necessarily under the consideration of the two branches of the legislature, where the suspension of the royal functions, and the question of supplying them in the present exigency, occasioned more violence of debate than had ever been known in the English annals since the disputes in the convention parliament on the abdication of the throne by James the Second.

The examination of the physicians was conducted with an inquisitive minuteness, which reflected little credit upon the dignity of a great assembly; and incidental circumstances were thus related, which respect for private feeling and common decorum ought to have concealed. But what moderation was to be expected, when the first of orators, in the vehemence of his passions, could dare, without trembling, to say that the Almighty had

been pleased to smite the sovereign with his hand, and that he had hurled him from the throne, and put him in the condition of the meanest peasant in the country?

The language and allusion of this extravagant flight were equally odious and revolting to the sentiments of humanity: but the intemperate zeal manifested to uphold the opinion of Dr. Warren, on the incurableness of His Majesty's complaint, carried with it a far more malign appearance. What was still worse than all the rest, attempts were made to create prejudices against the Queen, on account of the confidence which she placed in the judgment of Dr. Willis, preferably to that of his opponent, Dr. Warren, who even went so far as to charge Her Majesty, indirectly, with causing some of the reports to be altered more favourably than the latter would allow. In answer to this, Dr. Willis, when examined before the committee of the House of Commons, observed, that Her Majesty had an account of the King's health every hour, and that this statement must of necessity be frequently more favourable than the St. James's account, which was only taken in a morning, when the symptoms always appeared the worst; therefore, he considered this last to be less favourable than strictly true.

Dr. Warren, who evinced through the whole of this melancholy affair a most tenacious adhesiveness to his first opinion, next found fault with

Dr. Willis, for having introduced the Queen and some of the royal children to His Majesty, which had produced a considerable emotion, though the interview was but short. The answer to this was as follows: "I am very sure that such occurrences can scaree be too frequent, as it comforts the patient to think he is with his family, and that they are affectionate to him: and upon enquiries of patients who have been cured of the same indisposition, they have always mentioned those occurrences as having given them the greatest comfort, and, as they thought, helped very much towards a recovery." Dr. Willis went on to describe the meeting of His Majesty with the Queen and the youngest princess, as extremely moving and affecting. "The King," said he, "shewed the greatest marks of paternal affection for the princess, and of attention to the Queen, with whom he conversed for the space of a quarter of an hour." But though the doctor was present all the time of this interview, he professed himself not a judge whether His Majesty's conversation was disordered at the end or not, as he spoke several sentences in German, but at the conclusion of the meeting, the King took leave of the Queen and princess very properly.

The scandalous reflection upon Her Majesty, for having caused a favourable report to be issued in regard to the improved state of her royal consort, was repelled by Mr. Pitt in very indignant terms:

"If," he observed, "gentlemen intended to ground any argument on that point, he hoped they would be explicit, and rise superior to any insinuation with respect to a great personage who had resided near thirty years amongst us, and on whose character not even slander dared attempt to fix a stain."

Into the history of the proceedings that took place on the subject of the Regency, it is not here necessary to enter any farther than as the Queen was immediately concerned. Amidst all the acrimony, however, which the agitation of that important measure produced, an universal testimony was borne to the meritorious conduct of Her Majesty; and though the proposition for entrusting her with the sole direction of the household, as well as the care of the king's person, assisted by a council, met with warm resistance, no one presumed to throw out any imputation upon her integrity. Mr. (now Earl) Grey, while he opposed the resolution for vesting these powers in the Queen, "agreed with every panegyric on Her Majesty: he loved her virtues," he said; "and what he loved her for particularly, and what the country loved her for was, that she had never joined any party, any cabal, or interfered in politics: and such a character he did not think Her Majesty would be very ready to lose."

Among other artful objections raised against this

investiture, one of the most scandalous was the representing it as tending to create differences between the Regent and his mother; and it was even alleged that the bare proposition had already produced that effect: on which the chancellor in the upper house took occasion to assert that the Prince of Wales and the Queen were on the best of terms, and that it was only those who wished for dissensions who published the contrary—nay, he would go further, and give it as his opinion, that whatever influence Her Majesty possessed would be given to her son, in forwarding all such measures as tended to the benefit of the empire.

These were not random expressions, thrown out in the heat of debate, but the result of an intimate acquaintance with the royal personages.

The resolutions, at length, were carried through both houses, who joined in an address, humbly desiring Her Majesty to take under her care those important trusts, as soon as an act should be passed for that purpose; to which the following answer was returned:

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"My duty and gratitude to the King, and the same I must ever entertain of my great obligations to this country, will certainly engage my most earnest attention to the anxious and momentous trust intended to be reposed in me by parliament.

It will be a great consolation to me to receive the aid of a council, of which I shall stand so much in need, in discharge of a duty wherein the happiness of my future life is, indeed, deeply interested, but which, a higher object, the happiness of a great, loyal, and affectionate people, renders still more important."

In the debate on the clause relative to the privy purse of His Majesty, much was said about the allowance of sixteen thousand a-year to the Queen for purposes unknown to parliament, which elicited this most satisfactory information, that of this sum twelve thousand pounds were to pay an established list of charities: and the remaining four thousand to enable Her Majesty to continue benefactions to persons who were not on the list, but who had hitherto received the royal bounty to that amount.

Throughout this severe trial, the pious fortitude of Her Majesty continued unshaken, and though she could not but suffer much acute anxiety under the distressing visitation, nothing like impatience or despondency appeared in her deportment.

Many were the nights that she sat up, without taking any sleep at all; and when at length she was persuaded to retire to rest, her slumbers were short and disturbed by solicitous enquiries about her afflicted consort.

In the day, the Queen was not less troubled,

as besides the painful concern which she felt for the King, whose condition was reported to her sometimes twice in the hour, she had to attend consultations on the proceedings then going on in parliament. It was impossible in the course of these conferences to keep Her Majesty ignorant of the political conflict to which this melancholy exigency had given rise, and of the strenuous efforts that were making to deprive her of a trust to which she was so eminently entitled. That her sensibility was wounded by these fierce disputes is certain; and the wonder would have been if she had remained indifferent under such ungenerous attempts to destroy her hopes by weakening her influence. Providence, however, rewarded the unremitting care and firmness of Her Majesty, by suddenly withdrawing the heavy cloud that had so long eclipsed her comfort.

Just as the regency bill approached its last stage, the mind of the King emerged from the obscurity in which it had been for three months involved, and he awoke, as it were out of a dream, to the full possession of his faculties.

"I have been in a strange delirium for some days," said the King; and on being answered that the period was much longer, he paused, raised his eyes in thankfulness to Heaven, and said no more on the subject. This happy posture of the royal mind was stated to the House of Lords by the chancellor, on the twenty-fourth of February, when an

adjournment took place; and on the tenth of the following month a message was delivered from His Majesty to both houses of parliament, announcing his perfect recovery. Addresses were in consequence moved to the King, full of loyal sentiments, on this joyful event; and each house sent a message also of congratulation to the Queen, whose conduct had endeared her to the country, and whose exemplary and brilliant virtues were looked up to with the highest respect and admiration by every prince and every court of Europe. Such was the language of the lower house, on addressing Her Majesty, who replied as follows:

"I thank you for this signal mark of your attention, which affords me the highest satisfaction. The evident marks of anxiety which were shewn by the House of Commons, and by the people at large, during His Majesty's indisposition, were the best solace of my affliction; and the joy and loyalty which have appeared in every rank of His Majesty's subjects on his recovery afford the best proof of the attachment of a loyal, a free, and a generous people to their sovereign."

It should be observed here, that before His Majesty entered upon the discharge of any public office, he thought it his duty to attend divine wor-

ship in the private chapel at Kew; after which, the King, Queen, and three elder princesses, received the holy sacrament, with truly thankful hearts. Never did this, or perhaps any other nation, manifest such enthusiastic transports of joy as were displayed spontaneously on the restoration of the monarch to the exercise of the royal functions, and the bosom of his family. The illuminations in and about the metropolis, for several nights, particularly that of the seventeenth of March, surpassed all description. Every square, street, and alley, exhibited testimonies of loyal affection, in a blaze of splendour; while to heighten the spectacle, a throng of carriages and foot-passengers paraded the streets all night long.

The palace at Kew was illuminated in a very elegant manner, under the particular direction of Her Majesty. Against the wall opposite the front of the house was a most splendid arrangement of variegated lamps; in the centre of which spectacle was a large transparency, representing Esculapius holding up towards Heaven a medallion of the King, on whose head Providence, in a female form, appeared in the act of dropping a laurel, while Britannia, kneeling, seemed eager to receive the monarch, with a countenance expressive of gratitude. Over the picture was a pediment of lamps, surmounted by a crown, having beneath it this inscription: "G. III. the beloved father of his people."

Under all were the following lines:

Our prayers are heard, and Providence restores
A patriot king to bless Britannia's shores;
But not to Britain is the bliss confin'd;
All Europe hails the friend of human kind.
If such the general joy, what words can shew
The change to transport from the depths of woe,
In those permitted to embrace again
The best of fathers, husbands, and of men?

On each side of the picture was a pilaster of lamps, and at each gate an arch of lamps, with festoons and coronets of the same, between the arches and pillars, forming a tasteful display of light.

The King on that day dined at Windsor, where the joy of the people was unbounded on beholding him once more among them; but Her Majesty and the three elder princesses remained at Kew, from whence, in the evening, they proceeded to the house of Lord Bathurst in Piccadilly, for the purpose of seeing the illuminations. Having taken some refreshment, the royal party set off in a coach belonging to one of the ladies of the household, for the city; and after driving through the principal streets and squares for about three hours, they returned to Kew, where, to their great surprise, though it was two o'clock in the morning, the King appeared to open the door of the carriage,

and to receive from them the account of their entertainment. Of this excursion, Cowper wrote a poetical description, which, though not equal to his other works, merits insertion in this place.

When long sequestred from his throne,
GEORGE took his seat again,
By right of worth, not blood alone,
Entitled here to reign;
Then Loyalty, with all his lamps
New trimm'd, a gallant show!
Chasing the darkness and the damps,
Set London in a glow.
'Twas hard to tell of streets, or squares,
Which form'd the chief display;
The most resembling cluster'd stars,
Those the long milky way.
Bright shone the roofs, the domes, the spires,
And rockets flew self driven,
To hang their momentary fires
Amid the vault of heaven.
Had all the pageants of the world
In one procession join'd,
And all the banners been unfurl'd
That heralds e'er design'd;
For no such sight had England's Queen
Forsaken her retreat,
Where GEORGE recover'd made a scene
Sweet, always doubly sweet.
Yet glad she came that night, to prove
A witness undescried,
How much the object of HER love
Was lov'd by ALL beside.

Darkness the skies had mantled o'er
In aid of her design—
Darkness, oh Queen! ne'er call'd before
To veil a deed of thine.
On borrow'd wheels away she flies,
Resolv'd to be unknown,
And gratify no curious eyes
That night, except her own.
Arriv'd, a NIGHT like NOON she sees,
And hears the million hum,
As all by instinct, like the bees,
Had known their Sovereign come.
Pleas'd, she beheld aloft pourtray'd,
On many a splendid wall,
Emblems of health, and heavenly aid,
And GEORGE the theme of all:
Unlike the terrors of that line
So difficult to spell,
Which shook Belshazzar at his wine
The night his city fell.
Soon watry grew her eyes, and dim,
But with a joyful tear;
None else, except in prayer for him,
GEORGE ever drew from her.
It was a scene in every part
Like those in fable feign'd,
And seem'd by some magician's art
Created and sustain'd.
But other magic there she knew
Had been exerted none,
To raise such wonder in a view,
Save love of GEORGE alone.

That cordial thought her spirit cheer'd,
And through the cumbrous throng,
Not else unworthy to be fear'd,
Convey'd her calm alo ng.
So ancient poets say, serene,
The sea-maid rides the waves,
And, fearless of the billowy scene,
Her peaceful bosom laves.
With more than astronomic eyes
She view'd the brilliant show;
One Georgian Star adorns the skies,
She myriads found below.
Yet, let the glories of a night,
Like that, once seen, suffice:
Heaven grant us no such future sight,
Such previous woe the price!

The first drawing-room held by Her Majesty this year was on the twenty-sixth of March; and one of equal brilliancy perhaps was never witnessed. It was like the dawning of a beautiful morning in spring, after a dark and tempestuous night. The Queen wore round her neck a medallion, tied with a double row of gold chain, and across her shoulders was another chain of three rows of pearls, and five rows of diamonds, fastened low behind, to which was suspended before a fine miniature of the King, studded with diamonds. In the front of Her Majesty's hair the words "God save the King" were set in a rich cluster of diamonds. All

the princesses and ladies present had some allusive devices and mottoes of similar import. Her Majesty sat in a chair of state, under a canopy very richly laced; but it was observed, or fancied, that in the reception of the company she appeared to make a distinction according to the part the visitors had respectively taken in the late crisis.

That the Queen felt agitated in the presence of men who had so recently contributed to aggravate her sorrows, may easily be conceived; and it would have indicated either apathy or hypocrisy if she had deported herself without seeming to know the difference between tried friends and time-serving sycophants. Among the latter was Dr. Watson, Bishop of Landaff, who has left in his posthumous publication a most scurrilous invective against the Queen, for having treated him with coolness, amounting to disrespect, when he presented himself at the levee. How far Her Majesty merited censure, or whether in fact she was not perfectly justified in acting as she did, a simple statement of the truth will shew. When the indisposition of the King became known, this restless and ambitious prelate was at Cambridge, watching the issue; but the instant he was informed of the death of Dr. Shipley, Bishop of St. Asaph, he posted up to town, and made his appearance in the House of Lords, where he delivered a flaming speech in favour of an unrestricted regency; besides which,

he joined in a protest against the powers granted to the Queen and her council. The bishop was the only man of his order who took an active part in this delicate business, for though Dr. Wilson, of Bristol, voted on the same side, he did it silently. The motive of Watson was too obvious to be mistaken; and had the King remained in a state of moral incapacity long enough for the operation of the regency bill, the desired translation would, beyond question, have been the reward of his zeal and officiousness. But his hopes were blasted by the recovery of the King; on which his lordship drew up two addresses for his clergy; one to His Majesty, and the other to the Queen. In the latter were these expressions: "Sensible of the influence of royal example, we have always thought that your majesty was entitled to the thanks of the kingdom for the proofs you have uniformly given, during a long residence amongst us, of the sincerity of your piety, of the amiableness and purity of your manners as a Queen, as a wife, and as a mother. But if your majesty could have claimed our regard on any other account, the tenderness and concern you have shewn for a beloved monarch, during his late unhappy situation, would have secured to you the grateful attachment of a loyal people."

Such was the tributary respect paid to the Queen by this bishop on his own behalf, and that of his

clergy; and yet at the time of his presenting it he did not think Her Majesty deserving of the compliments which the address contained. By his own account, therefore, he acted with the grossest duplicity; but if his narrative be correct, his conduct was still blacker, for he says, that the conclusion of the address, in which he foisted the words that there was "no diversity of opinion about the necessity of protecting the rights of the sovereign," was intended as a personal insult to the Queen, who conducted herself on the principle, "that the opposition to the minister was an opposition to the King."

Here, then, according to his own declaration, he was not only a double dealer, but a slanderer of the worst description, for it was neither in his power, nor in that of any mortal, to know what the principle was which influenced Her Majesty in the late eventful trial. But the bishop measured the royal mind by his own; and being conscious that the prospect of higher preferment had alone stimulated him to adopt the course which he did, it was his wish to make it appear that the Queen also acted from motives equally sordid. And yet, after all, the malice of the man was greater than his power; and the shaft, envenomed as it was, fell short of its aim, *telum imbelle sine ictu;* for nobody but this meddling prelate ever thought of attributing the conduct of Her Majesty to a spirit of ambition; nor indeed is it likely that even the bishop, with all his

acrimony, believed in his heart what he asserted with his pen.

That he was capable of such deception, is evident from the contradictions contained in this address, and from the circumstance that he made the whole body of his clergy instrumental to an insult upon their sovereign, without one of them having the least conception of such a design. There was not a single person whose signature stood affixed to this address that would not have thrown the paper back into the face of his diocesan, had the latter honestly explained his meaning instead of cloaking it under phrases liable to impose upon the understanding. But "what will not ambition and revenge descend to?" The bishop, with all the deceivableness of unrighteousness, most carefully concealed the sting with which he intended to wound the feelings of Her Majesty from the knowledge of his flock, who, in the simplicity of their hearts, persuaded themselves that they were honoured by carrying up to the throne, not "the poisonous aconite, which grows unknown, and is when known refused," but a votive offering of joy and gladness worthy of the royal acceptance. Thus it is that

> Oft, though Wisdom wake, Suspicion sleeps
> At Wisdom's gate, and to Simplicity
> Resigns her charge, while Goodness thinks no ill
> Where no ill seems.

That the bishop was sorely hurt at his disappointment may readily be supposed, but he had only himself to thank for it; and even if his other claims to advancement had been as just as they were the reverse, the crooked way which he pursued to gain his object rendered him unworthy of it. About three years before this, he had endeavoured to insinuate himself into the royal favour by a fulsome address to the Queen, prefixed to his compilation of Theological Tracts for the use of students in divinity. Perhaps no collection could be more improperly inscribed, for it consisted of an heterogeneous mass of pamphlets, many of them radically hostile to the confession of the established church, and to the religious principles of Her Majesty. But the aim of the bishop was to secure a step towards a translation; and the venerable Lowth being then in a declining state, his lordship of Landaff flattered himself with the hope that a little well-timed adulation would not be unacceptable at court. In this he was completely mistaken, for neither the King nor the Queen could endure addresses of this sort; and the drift of the obsequious prelate was not only seen through by them, but by his old acquaintance, Mr. Pitt, at whose recommendation, aided by Her Majesty, Dr. Porteus was removed from Chester to London.

If it be thought that too much has been said upon this mass of posthumous calumny, let it be

considered, that were the assertions of such a man suffered to pass uncontradicted, or unexplained, the silence would by many be construed into an admission of their truth. The bishop might have gone quietly into his grave, accountable only to his maker for the improvement of his barren lands, and the neglect of his still more barren diocese, had he not left behind him a mine of mischief to lacerate the feelings of the living, and to destroy the reputation of the dead, forgetting in his malignity the observation, that "He whose hatred is covered by deceit, shall have his wickedness shewn before the whole congregation." (Prov. xxvi, 26.)

More might have been said, and justly, on the spirit and conduct of the vain-glorious hierophant; but here he shall be left for the present, brooding over his imaginary wrongs, like another Abiathar in the fields of Anathoth.

A more agreeable companion is now to be introduced, with whom the reader cannot fail to be delighted. The late Mr. George Hardinge, one of the Welsh judges, was at that time solicitor-general to the Queen, and a member of the House of Commons, where he distinguished himself with considerable eloquence on the regency question, as his uncle, the great Earl Camden, did in the Lords. Shortly after the recovery of the King, and a little before the grand fête intended to be given by the Queen and the Princess-Royal, on account of that

joyful event, Mr. Hardinge waited upon their majesties at Windsor; of which interview he penned the following interesting narrative:

"I arrived at the Queen's Lodge at twelve, and was carried to the equerry's room. Colonel Digby came to me, civil, and gentleman-like. He chatted with me for half-an-hour, and when he left me, said 'he would let the King know through General Harcourt that I was there.' In a few minutes I was gallanted up stairs into Madame Schwellenbergen's dining-apartment. There I found General Harcourt, who is a very agreeable man. He told me, 'that when the King (who was going to the castle to receive the address of the clergy) should come out of his apartment, he would let him know, and receive his commands.'

"In a quarter of an hour two royal coaches came to the door; and an equerry handed the Queen into the first. The King followed her, without a thought, apparently, of poor me. Princess-Royal and Princess Augusta followed. This filled the first coach. No. 2 had Princess Elizabeth and a bed-chamber-woman. Then, a-foot, my friends Digby and Harcourt. When they were flown, the porter came to me, and said, 'General Harcourt had named me to the King; but that His Majesty being in a great hurry, had said nothing. That, if I pleased, I might wait till His Majesty's return, which,' the

porter said, 'would be in one hour and an half.' This, I thought, was as much as to say, 'If you go, you will not be missed.' In half an hour Mrs. Schwellenbergen's German footman came to lay the cloth, and produced the dining apparatus. For want of occupation, I formed an acquaintance with him, and learnt that Madame Schwellenbergen sat at the head of the table; the Misses Burney and Planta right and left of her, and any visitor at bottom. The room is pretty enough, and clean, but furnished with a cheap kind of paper, and linen curtains. Observing a large piece of German bread, I fell to, and ate a pound of it. The hour and a-half having expired, the regals returned; and then I heard the Queen most condescendingly say, 'Do find out Mr. Hardinge, and beg of him to come and see us.' Her butler, out of livery, came to me, and desired me to follow him. I went through a very handsome apartment into another most beautifully fitted up, with a ceiling of the modern work, 'done,' as the King told me, 'in a week.' Into this room I was shut, and found in it, standing by the fire, without any form, the King, Queen, three princesses, and this bed-chamber-woman, whoever she was, for I have not made her out, but liked her very much, because she seemed to like me. It is impossible for words to express the kind and companionable good-humour of the whole party. I almost forgot that any one of them was my supe-

rior. The King looked fifteen years younger, and much better in the face, though as red as ever. He said a number of excellent things, and in the most natural way. The Queen, with amazing address and cleverness, gave a turn to the conversation, and mixed in it just at the right places. You will not believe me when I tell you that I passed half an hour, at least, in the room.

"The princesses looked as they always do, the pink of good-humour. The Princess-Royal had a very fine colour, the two others were pale. The King did a very odd thing by the Princess-Royal; but I loved him for it. He said, 'he would ask me, as a man of taste, what I thought of the ceiling?' and then called upon the Princess-Royal to explain the allegorical figures on the ceiling, which she did, blushing a little at first in the sweetest manner, with a distinct voice, and great propriety in her emphasis. This one trait would of itself demonstrate how very kind they were. The King began by asking me 'how I could run away from London, and give up my fees?' I told him that I *never* minded fees, but *less* when they interfered with my sense of duty to him. The Queen then came up to me, and said, 'You have less merit in the visit, because a little bird has told me that you are on your way to your circuit.'

"We then went slap dash into politics, Queen and all. The King laughed heartily at the rats,

by that name, and said, 'they were the boldest rats he ever knew, for that all the calculation was against them. Even —— said *It was probable I should recover:* not that I am recovered, according to *some* of them: and yet I have read the last report of the physicians, which is tolerably good proof that I am well. By the way, your uncle is considerably better, and I flatter myself that *my* getting well has done him good.' I then said, that I had left him in some alarm how he was to wear the Windsor uniform, with a tie wig over it, from the fear that he should be mistaken for an old general, that had fought at the battle of Dettingen. The Queen said, 'Oh! I plead guilty to that; and I see you enjoy it. I said HARDINGE will enjoy it; for though he is very good-natured, he loves a little innocent mischief.' The King then told me the whole story of the conference with Pitt; commended the House of Commons, and said, 'his illness had in the end been a perfect bliss only to him, as proving to him how nobly the people would support him when he was confined.' This tempted me to say, that it was no political debate, but the contest between generous humanity and mean cruelty, and it interested human nature. Then we talked of Mrs. Siddons, Jordan, &c. and the Queen said, 'Siddons was going to Germany, to make the English find out by her absence that she was good for something.' Then we flew to Handel; after

which the King made me a most gracious bow, and said, 'I am going to my dinner.' I was near the door, made a low bow to the females, and departed."

The pleasantry to which Her Majesty alluded was occasioned by the notice that all the gentlemen invited to her gala on the second of April were expected to appear in the Windsor uniform; and as a card to that effect had been sent to Lord Camden, he either imagined, or was persuaded by his facetious nephew to believe, that the regulation was general, and admitted of no exception.

This entertainment was confined to a concert and grand supper, the former commencing at eight o'clock, and the latter at one in the morning, when His Majesty retired; but the Queen remained above two hours longer, to enjoy the festive scene, and do the honours of the table, supported on her right by the Prince of Wales, and on the left by the Duke of York. The spectacle in St. George's Hall had a grand effect, and the feast was very magnificent, though the company was rather select than numerous, and consisted chiefly of those of the nobility, with their ladies and families, who were emphatically called the King's friends. Her Majesty distinguished the Lord Chancellor Thurlow and Mr. Pitt in a very flattering manner, by causing their arms,

with appropriate devices, to form part of the ornaments on the supper table.

On the fifteenth of April, the Queen, accompanied by the princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, honoured Covent-Garden with their presence, for the first time after the recovery of the King. As soon as Her Majesty entered the box, which she did a minute or two before her daughters, a joyful peal of acclamation burst forth from every part of the house; and the curtain being drawn up at the same instant, displayed a transparency, exhibiting the royal arms, superbly emblazoned, having a scroll above, with the words LONG LIVE THE KING; and another underneath, MAY THE KING LIVE FOR EVER! Two cherubs supported the last, waving wreaths of laurel over it; and the whole painting was richly decorated with a rich foliage of roses and myrtles. The exhibition had a fine effect; and Her Majesty was so much moved by it that she burst into tears; in which emotion her daughters sympathized; and the whole house felt the force of the scene, in a manner that evinced general sensibility. After a short pause, "God save the King" was called for, and sung twice over, the whole audience joining in chorus, and the Queen beating time with her fan. At the conclusion of the play the song was repeated, and again encored; but even this did not

satisfy the audience, for, after the farce, it was once more demanded; and when the performers hesitated in complying with the requisition, the whole company stood up and sang it twice, without their assistance, so that the loyal air was sung no less than six times in the course of the evening. That His Majesty was not present with his happy family at the theatre, was occasioned by the pious resolution which he had taken of declining any public appearance till he had first made his votive offering of thanksgiving in the metropolitan church, agreeable to the notice sent to both houses of parliament. The day fixed for this solemn festival was the twenty-third of April; and never perhaps did the annals of this country witness a spectacle of equal sublimity. Scaffoldings were erected on each side of the awning under which their majesties were to enter the church; and innumerable others were fixed against the churches and houses the whole way from Pall-Mall to St. Paul's. These temporary structures were filled with spectators, many of whom sat up all the preceding night. The beginning of the morning was unfavourable, and the rain poured down in such a manner as threw a damp upon the expectation of the multitude, who, however, fearlessly braved the weather, and waited with extreme patience the coming of the King, at whose setting out, about ten o'oclock, the sun shone forth with a lustre that gladdened the day, and seemed to grace

its triumphs. At Temple Bar the sovereign was met by the lord-mayor, who, after presenting the city sword, and receiving it again, rode on horseback, bare-headed, before the royal carriage to St. Paul's, where their majesties alighted exactly at noon, the Queen being handed out by her august consort. At their entrance they were struck with the sublime picture of six thousand children of different parishes, so situated as to be seen at one point of view, and saluting their benefactors as they passed with an anthem to the great Creator. This arrangement took place at the express desire of Her Majesty, who was almost overcome with admiration; nor did the King enjoy it less; and, in fact, the whole royal family appeared as if they could have remained on the spot, had not their attention been called to another scene of more splendour. The children continued singing part of the hundredth psalm, until their majesties, the royal family, and their attendants, were seated; and then the service of the day began; after which, the Bishop of London delivered a plain but appropriate sermon from Psalm xxvii, 16.—"O tarry thou the Lord's leisure: be strong, and He shall comfort thine heart: and put thou thy trust in the Lord."

In this discourse, the right reverend preacher carefully abstained from all political allusions and personal compliment; the only part that had any

reference to private feeling being an observation on the firmness of the royal trust in Providence, through the whole of the late distressing visitation. After the sermon, an anthem, selected by the King himself, from the 139th Psalm, was sung by the best voices in the choir, and the whole concluded with the offertory at the altar. As their majesties left the choir, the charity children sung part of the 104th Psalm; and the pleasure which the Queen received from this affecting scene was sufficiently expressed in her countenance. Indeed, the whole congregation partook of the emotion; and it was with difficulty that the congregation suppressed their plaudits. The royal family returned with the same state to the Queen's Palace; greeted as they passed along by the joyful acclamations of the people, who lined the streets and filled the houses. This universal demonstration of loyalty, which afforded an unequivocal proof that His Majesty reigned in the hearts of his subjects, had a very sensible effect upon the royal visitors. The Queen in particular, through the whole of the day, shewed in her countenance and manner an uncommon elation of spirits; but His Majesty was rather placid and serene.

The same day, eighty of the Sunday-school children at Windsor were clothed by Her Majesty, and attended divine service, following the mayor and corporation in procession. All of them wore in their hats a garter blue ribband, with "Long live

the King" in letters of gold; and to every child was given a medal, which was hung round the neck by an orange-coloured ribband.

A few days previous to the general thanksgiving, the governors of Bethlem Hospital received a seasonable benefaction from a person unknown, accompanied with the following note: "The governors of Bethlem Hospital are desired to apply the inclosed two bank-notes, of fifty pounds each, to the use of that charity, being the humble expression of the donor's gratitude to Almighty God, for that signal act of his mercy to these kingdoms which is to be publicly commemorated on the twenty-third of April, 1789."

But though the communication was so managed as to elude discovery of the benevolent source, the general opinion attributed the donation to the highest quarter.

On the twenty-eighth of this month, Her Majesty gave another grand entertainment at Windsor, to those of the nobility and gentry who were not present at the Queen's concert. But the most splendid fête of all was the gala given by the Princess-Royal on the first of May. The cards of invitation were in the name of her royal highness to the unmarried branches of the nobility, and other persons of distinction; while the married were invited by Lord Aylesbury, in the name of the Queen.

The company, consisting of two hundred and

twenty-eight persons, began to assemble about eight o'clock in the ball-room, which by ten was extremely full.

The King wore the Windsor uniform, as also did the gentlemen; and the ladies were dressed in garter blue, covered with white tiffany, which by candle-light gave to the whole an appearance of purple. A large plume of white feathers, either plain or tipped with orange, added grandeur to the head-dress, that had a very fine effect. Her Majesty and the princesses did not differ from the general costume; and the whole female circle wore bandeaus, with the words "God save the King;" most of the ladies also having rich medallions of the monarch, some set in pearl, and some in diamonds.

The dances did not begin till ten o'clock; their majesties and the princesses being more than an hour intermixed with the company, conversing in the most affable manner with every person present. During the dances, the King and Queen either sat under the canopy, or walked round the room; and about a quarter before one the ball finished, when the company went into St. George's Hall to supper, which exceeded any thing of the kind ever given in this kingdom. There were two long tables, sixty-four feet each; and at the upper end, opposite the centre, a cross one was laid out for thirteen, and raised above the rest, to which the King, with great dig-

nity, led his consort; and then, wishing the company good night, retired.

At the royal table sat the Queen, having on her right the Prince of Wales, the Princess-Royal, the Duke of Gloucester, Princess Elizabeth, and Prince William of Gloucester: on her left, the Duke of York, Princess Augusta, the Duke of Cumberland, Princess Mary, and Princess Sophia of Gloucester.

The whole service on Her Majesty's table was gold; and on the ground-works were the figures of peace and plenty, with the olive branch and cornucopiæ—the accompaniments various, genii weaving wreaths of flowers, and the pedestals representing vases of fruits.

On one of the long tables the platform was covered with dancing figures;—the other had the emblematical ones of Hope, Charity, &c. which being done on sand, glistened with the reflected light of the candles.

That part of the supper which was hot consisted of twenty tureens of different soups, roast ducks, turkey-pouts, cygnets, green geese, land-rails, chickens, asparagus, peas, and beans. The cold parts of the collation were the same kind of poultry boned, and swimming or standing in the centre of transparent jellies, where they were supported by paste pillars, not in circumference thicker than a knitting needle. This, with the lights playing from

the candles, and reflected by the polish of the plates and dishes, made a most beautiful appearance. Cray-fish pies of all kinds were distributed with great taste; and the hams and brawn in masquerade, swimming on the surface of pedestals of jelly, seemingly supported but by the strength of an apparent liquid, excited general admiration.

The ornamental parts of the confectionery were both numerous and splendid. There were temples four feet high, in the different stories of which were sweetmeats; the various orders of architecture being displayed in the same with exquisite taste.

The side tables contained large goblets of gold, also an entire new service of gold, and silver plates.

The dessert comprehended all that the hot-house could afford, and indeed more than it was thought art could have produced at that season. There was a profusion of pines, strawberries, peaches, nectorines, apricots, cherries of every kind, plums, and raspberries, with the best and richest preserved fruits, as well those that are dried as those in syrup.

There were forty silver branches, each holding two large wax tapers on the long tables, and six gold branches on the Queen's table; and at the side-boards were two magnificent candelabra, which gave a very brilliant light.

The hall, besides, was elegantly illuminated, and

in a much superior style to what it had ever before exhibited.

The stone gallery on one side was hung with transparencies executed by Rebecca, and on the other with paintings by West, which had a fine effect.

On the twenty-ninth of May, the French ambassador gave a magnificent entertainment to the royal family, and the principal of the nobility, at his house in Portman Square. In the grand saloon, where the Queen was first received, a superb chair was placed, near to which the princesses were seated. After the first ceremonies, a group of dancers from the Opera House came forward, dressed in pastoral habits, and presented to Her Majesty cornucopias of fruit entwined with wreaths of roses, which they laid at Her Majesty's feet. The effect was pretty enough, and reminded the spectator of the pageants of former days. On each side of the saloon was a transparent painting; one representing the genius of France, congratulating that of England on the recovery of the King, an excellent likeness of whom was held by Hygeia; the other painting was a representation of the Graces attending Her Majesty, upon whose head an angel appeared in the act of placing a crown.

The dances continued till near one o'clock, when the supper rooms were opened, and displayed a

profusion of luxury and magnificence. About nine hundred cards of invitation were given out on this occasion; but by the express desire of Her Majesty no person was present who had not been introduced at court.

Splendid, however, as this entertainment was, that given by the Marquis del Campo, the Spanish ambassador, at Ranelagh, on the second of June, far exceeded it. The whole external front of the house was illuminated in a novel manner; and the portico immediately leading to the rotunda was filled on each side with rows of myrtle, aromatic shrubs, and rose trees, intermixed with carnations and pinks. The rotunda itself, at the first opening to the sight, exhibited a most superb appearance; and the continued lamps spread around had a very striking effect.

The lower boxes formed a Spanish camp, striped blue and red; each tent guarded by a boy dressed in the Spanish uniform. The gallery formed a temple of Flora, lighted by a number of gold baskets, containing wax tapers, ornamented with roses and other flowers.

The Queen's box was hung with crimson satin lined with white, which hung in festoons richly fringed with gold; and at the top was a regal crown.

In the orchestra, which was converted into a

magnificent pavilion of white and gold, lined with green embroidered satin, a table of eighteen covers was laid for the royal family.

Opposite to Her Majesty's box was a light temple or stage, on which a Spanish dance was performed by children: at another part were beautiful moving transparencies; and in a third was a lottery of valuable trinkets, consisting of six hundred prizes, according to the number of ladies invited. The greatest prize was an elegant gold watch, richly ornamented with diamonds, which fell to the lot of Miss Sturt. The other prizes consisted of rings, bracelets, fans, necklaces, &c. Her Majesty drew an etwee case with a beautiful medallion of the King.

Women, ornamented with wreaths of flowers, made tea; and one hundred valets in scarlet and gold, and as many footmen in sky blue and silver, waited on the company.

The fire-works in the garden were uncommonly beautiful; and to give additional splendour to the scene, the ambassador caused twenty pleasure-boats, illuminated with lamps, to sail up and down the river, letting off rockets as they passed.

After the dances, the Queen and royal family retired to supper.

The service was entirely of gold; and the decorations were of the most magnificent description,

the table-cloth alone having cost ninety guineas. There were all sorts of the choicest wines and fruit, some of which had been sent from Spain purposely for the entertainment.

Her Majesty was handed to the table by his excellency the Spanish ambassador; and there were also present the four eldest princesses, and the Duke of Gloucester, with his son and daughter.

After supper the dances were resumed, and continued till past five in the morning; but the Queen and princesses withdrew about three.

Her Majesty's birth-day this year was kept at Windsor, when the court was thronged with visitors; and in the evening there was a grand concert and supper on a very extensive scale. The King's birth-day was celebrated at St. James's; and the drawing-room was so crowded, that, to prevent confusion, the company passed in at one door and out at the opposite, after making their congratulations. The three younger princesses received the compliments of the visitors in the Queen's apartment.

Her Majesty's dress surpassed in point of richness any that had ever been beheld on a like occasion. The pockets were laced all over, and ornamented with large diamond bows, to each of which there was a chain of brilliants that ran the whole length; and about thirty large diamond buttons and tassels were fastened to the petticoat. Her head-dress was of thread lace, with two fea-

thers profusely ornamented with diamonds. The stomacher was wholly of brilliants. The drawing-room began to clear about five o'clock; and by eight the resort to the ball-room was very general. His Majesty, however, was not present any part of the day, owing to the shock occasioned by the duel lately fought between the Duke of York and Colonel Lenox, in which his royal highness may be said to have had an hair-breadth escape. The Queen had in consequence to go through all the burthen of the ceremonials without support; but an event occurred at the ball in the evening, equally unexpected, disagreeable, and unprecedented.

Notwithstanding what had so recently happened, and the established etiquette that no persons should stand up at country-dances who had not previously danced a minuet, Colonel Lenox appeared in the circle with Lady Catharine Barnard. This the Prince of Wales did not perceive till he and his partner, the Princess-Royal, came to the colonel's place in the dance, when, struck with the impropriety, he took the hand of the princess, just as she was about to be turned by the colonel, and led her to the bottom of the dance. The Duke of York and the Princess Augusta came next, and they turned the colonel without the least particularity or exception. The Duke of Clarence with the Princess Elizabeth came next, and his royal highness followed the example of the Prince of Wales. The

dance proceeded, however, and Colonel Lenox and his partner danced down: but when they came to the Prince and Princess, his royal highness took his sister, and led her to her chair by the Queen. Her Majesty then addressing herself to the Prince, said, "You seem heated, Sir, and tired." "I am heated and tired, Madam," said the Prince, "not with the dance, but tired of dancing in such company." "Then, Sir," said the Queen, "it will be better for me to withdraw, and put an end to the ball." "It certainly will be so," said the Prince, "for I never will countenance insults given to my family, however they may be treated by others." At the end of the dance, accordingly, Her Majesty and the princesses withdrew, and thus the ball concluded. The Prince, with his natural gallantry, afterwards explained to Lady Catharine Barnard the reason of his conduct, and assured her ladyship that it gave him much pain to be under the necessity of acting in a manner that might subject any lady to a moment's embarrassment.

CHAPTER XVI.

Their Majesties' Journey to Weymouth.—Arrival at Lyndhurst.—Singular Tenure.—Visit to Southampton and Lymington.—Reception at Weymouth.—Anecdote of the King.—Journal of the Royal Progress.—Aquatic Excursions.—Quick's Benefit at the Theatre.—Visit to Lulworth Castle.—Nautical Manœuvres.—Their Majesties' Journey to Plymouth.—Pleasing Spectacle at Honiton.—Reception at Exeter.—Saltram House.—Plymouth.—Dock-Yard.—Accident.—Naval Review.—Victualling-Office.—Mount Edgecumbe.—Excursions on the Tamer.—Royal Donations.—Return to Weymouth.—Divine Service on board Ship.—Milton Abbey.—Departure from Weymouth.—Longleat.—Tottenham Park.—Windsor.

THOUGH His Majesty was happily restored to mental and bodily health, it was deemed adviseable that he should try the benefit of sea-air and bathing, for the complete invigoration of the system after the severe shock which it had sustained. Weymouth was selected for this purpose; and it was the more eligible as the Duke of Gloucester had a lodge there suited for the accommodation of his royal brother and family. Accordingly, about seven in the morning, on the twenty-fifth of June, their majesties and the three eldest princesses left Windsor, and arrived at Lyndhurst a little after three in the afternoon. They were attended by Lady Courtoun,

the two ladies Waldegrave, Lord Courtoun, Colonel Goldsworthy, and Colonel Gwynn; and were followed in about an hour by the Duke of Gloucester and his suite. At Winchester and Romney their majesties were received as they passed with cordial acclamations of joy; and an immense number of horsemen, who joined the royal travellers on the road, proceeded with them to the end of their journey. At the extremity of the New Forest they were met by the lord warden and his deputy, the steward, bailiff, verdurers, regarders, royal and other bowmen, agisters, and the various officers of the forest, in their ancient uniforms, who preceded the royal carriages to Lyndhurst; where, upon His Majesty's alighting in the court-yard of the King's House, he was presented by the Rev. Sir Charles Mill, baronet, hereditary bailiff of the forest, with a brace of milk-white greyhounds, having gold collars, and coupled with a green silk ribband, agreeable to the ancient custom of the Manor of Coleberry, which obliges him to make such presentment to every crowned head whenever he enters the forest.

At Lyndhurst the royal family dined in a room exposed to public view; after which they threw the windows open, and joined the populace in the choruses of "God save the King" and "Rule Britannia." In the evening they condescended to gratify the loyal wishes of the people, by walking

through the village, attended by all their train, while the happy rustics around cheered them with loud acclamations.

The next morning their majesties honoured Southampton with a visit, and were received in the audit-room by the mayor and corporation, who, by their town clerk, presented an address, which was very graciously received. After partaking of refreshments, the royal party went to the quay, and from thence walked round the platform, where they expressed much pleasure with the grandeur of the views, the richness of which was considerably heightened by a full tide. They then proceeded in their carriages round the beach; and after honouring Colonel Haywood with a call, and taking chocolate, returned much gratified with their excursion to Lyndhurst.

On Saturday their majesties and the princesses visited the town of Lymington, where also they were received with every demonstration of joy, and at night the place was splendidly illuminated.

The following morning they heard divine service, and a sermon preached by one of the Duke of Gloucester's chaplains, in the chapel belonging to the Lodge. Early on Monday, the whole of the royal family departed from Lyndhurst, and in the afternoon passed through Salisbury, where a triumphal arch, ornamented with festoons of flowers and laurel wreaths, was erected, under

which the entire cavalcade proceeded without stopping; and the same afternoon, about four o'clock, arrived at Weymouth. Their majesties were met at the entrance of the town by the mayor, aldermen, and common-council, walking in procession, with colours flying, and a band of music playing "God save the King." When the King reached Gloucester Lodge, a royal salute of twenty-one guns was fired from the ships in the road, and answered by the battery on the esplanade. His Majesty, on viewing the bay of Weymouth, was so struck with the beauty of the scene, that, turning to the Queen, he said, "I never enjoyed a sight so pleasing."

After dinner they walked on the sands for two hours, surrounded by an incredible concourse of people; and when the mayor offered to provide constables to attend the King in his excursions, the benevolent monarch thanked him for his attention, but said he found himself sufficiently well-guarded by his affectionate people. In the evening there was a splendid display of fire-works; the town was also illuminated, and the night spent by the enraptured inhabitants of Weymouth in mirth and jollity.

The next day the mayor and corporation waited upon the King and Queen with an address, which was most graciously received; and the gentlemen had all the honour to kiss their majesties' hands.

On Wednesday morning the King rode out for

two hours along the coast, towards Lulworth Castle; and in the evening he was present with the Queen and princesses at a haul of fish upon the beach; after which, the whole party went and drank tea with Lady Sydney.

At a very early hour on Friday the King perambulated the beach by himself for a considerable time; and after dinner the whole royal family appeared on the sands, conversing freely with several persons, and evidently desirous of communicating happiness to all around them. The weather being rainy on Saturday, their majesties did not venture out, but diverted themselves at home with literary conversation; and in the evening they had a select party at cards. On Sunday morning, between seven and eight, the King was on the esplanade, where he walked two hours unattended; and after breakfast proceeded with all his family on foot to church, at the door of which they were met by the mayor and corporation, who conducted them to their respective pews; that of the King and Queen, in the centre aisle, being fitted up with green silk curtains. A psalm at the opening of the service, and an anthem at the conclusion, were performed by some of the best voices in the neighbourhood. The sermon was preached by the Reverend Mr. Thomas Groves, the rector of Weymouth. After divine service their majesties and the princesses walked till dinner on the beach, to shew

themselves to the immense crowds of affectionate subjects whom curiosity had assembled from the most distant parts of the country.

The King did not bathe in the sea for some days after his arrival, owing to the unsettled state of the weather; but having once begun, he continued the practice pretty regularly, and that evidently with considerable benefit. He usually rose at six, walked the parade till eight, breakfasted a little before ten, then rode out till three, dined at four, and resumed the promenade with his Queen and daughters till late in the evening, provided the weather was serene.

On the ninth their majesties made an aquatic excursion in the barge belonging to the Duke of Clarence; and as soon as they turned Portland Point, in full view of the ships of war, a royal salute was fired. So well were they pleased with this trip, that on the thirteenth they made another excursion round the bay, though the weather was rainy and tempestuous; but after attempting to make the Southampton frigate, the barge was obliged to return; and at half-past three their majesties landed at the pier. The next morning, on a signal given, the royal family embarked at the quay, and were rowed round the Magnificent to the Southampton; and as both ships were manned and richly dressed, they made a fine appearance. The Southampton, having received the royal visitors, stood out of the bay for the Channel; and after

sailing round Portland, at half-past two returned to her anchorage, when their majesties went into the barge, and were landed at the pier.

On the fifteenth the weather was again too unfavourable for any excursion; but in the evening the whole of the royal family went to the play. Mr Hughes, the manager, intended to have erected a superb box for their majesties; but this being positively declined, three rows were raised in front for their accommodation; and over the centre was placed a canopy of crimson satin fringed with gold. Twenty-two places were taken for the royal family, who all seemed much pleased with the exertions of the performers.

The following day their majesties honoured Lord Rivers with a visit, at his seat near Dorchester; and in the evening they went on board the Magnificent in the barge.

Early on Sunday, the nineteenth, the King bathed in the sea, as also did the Princess Elizabeth; after which both walked some time on the sands. At ten, His Majesty, the princesses, and suit, went to church, where Dr. Samuel Glasse, one of the chaplains in ordinary, preached. The Queen, however, not being well, had prayers read in her private apartments.

Very early on Monday morning their majesties embarked in their boats, to go on board the Southampton; which they did not reach till ten o'clock, owing to its blowing fresh, with a hollow sea. The

frigate instantly got under weigh, and was soon out of sight. The King and princesses experienced little or no inconvenience; but Her Majesty was so much indisposed, as to be kept with great difficulty from fainting till she reached the shore, where she landed about three, not quite so well pleased as with her former excursions.

She was, however, not so much daunted as to trust His Majesty to the perils of the ocean the next day without her friendly care; and at eleven the royal family went again on board the Southampton, when, after a pleasant trip of five hours, they returned to Gloucester Lodge to dinner.

On Wednesday, the twenty-second, their majesties had another pleasant cruize, with which the Queen was much delighted; but the Honourable Miss Townshend appeared very much alarmed by the rolling of the ship; and on being asked whether she was sea-sick, answered—"No, only sick of the sea."

In the evening of the twenty-fifth the royal family went to see the King's old favourite, Quick, perform the character of TOUCHSTONE, in "As you Like it," for his own benefit, which of course proved a bumper.

On Monday morning, the third of August, the whole royal party embarked in the Southampton, for Lulworth Castle, the seat of Mr. Weld, where they arrived about four in the afternoon, and were met by an immense crowd of country-people,

assembled in sporting groups, and dancing before them to the gates.

Here a still more agreeable spectacle presented itself in the appearance of the eight children of Mr. Weld, who were placed on the steps one above another, and singing "God save the King" as their majesties entered the vestibule. After partaking of an elegant collation, the illustrious visitors were conducted into the beautiful chapel of that edifice, where an anthem was performed in a style that drew from their majesties warm expressions of admiration. On leaving the castle a royal salute was fired; and about nine o'clock the royal party landed at the pier of Weymouth, from whence they proceeded immediately to the theatre, having ordered a play for that evening. While at Lulworth, a messenger had been despatched to the manager with directions that the farce should be performed for the amusement of the company before their arrival.

The next day the royal family paid a visit to Lord Digby, at Sherborne Castle; with which noble mansion, and the surrounding scenery, they were no less pleased than with the preparations made for their reception.

On Thursday the whole party embarked on board the Southampton, and stood out to sea, followed by the Magnificent; when, after running six or eight leagues, His Majesty expressed a wish to stand in for the land; on which the frigate was

put about, and passing the line of battle ship, afforded a beautiful spectacle, the two vessels cheering, and almost touching each other's sides. During this trip, an American vessel, bound to England, steered very near the frigate, without paying proper respect to the King's pendant. Captain Douglas, having their majesties on board, would not bring her to with a gun, for fear of alarming the Queen and princesses; which the Magnificent perceiving, altered her course, and letting fly an eighteen pounder, soon brought the republican to good manners. The weather being fine, the breeze gentle, and the sea a perfect mirror, rendered this cruize most delightful, and about three in the afternoon their majesties landed, very hungry, but full of spirits.

The following day Lord Mount-Edgecumbe arrived at Weymouth, to invite the royal family to his beautiful seat, in Devonshire, with which the King readily complied; and the noble viscount instantly returned, to make the necessary preparations for the reception of his august visitors.

Accordingly, on Thursday the thirteenth, their majesties and suite left Weymouth for Plymouth; all the respectable inhabitants attending them out of the town; and the Southampton sailing the same day. On the arrival of the royal party at Bridport, they were met by the principal people of the town, who walked before His Majesty's carriage, singing

"God save the King," accompanied by a band of music, with colours flying. Besides a kind of canopy, with a handsome crown, over the royal coach, there were three triumphal arches erected; one at the entrance, another at the town-hall, and the third at the west end of the town; on all of which were loyal inscriptions.

On reaching Chadwick and Charmouth hills, His Majesty got out of the carriage, and walked a considerable way with most of his attendants; thus affording the country-people a fine opportunity of approaching the royal presence, which several of them gladly embraced. With the persons nearest to him the King talked familiarly, and on those at a greater distance he smiled, and bowed in a most gracious manner. The villagers at Charmouth had erected a lofty triumphal arch of oaken boughs, decorated with an immense crown of laurel; which rustic trophy was viewed by their majesties and the princesses with much pleasure. At Axminster the royal party stopped to visit the carpet manufactory, of which they examined the whole process. Her Majesty gave an order for several pieces; and on leaving the place, a liberal sum was left to be distributed among the work-people.

On approaching Honiton, the illustrious travellers were surprised at the turnpike with the appearance of near four hundred female children, neatly dressed, and headed by the young ladies of the boarding-

school, all in white; which pleasing spectacle drew tears of sympathy from the eyes of Her Majesty and the princesses.

From Honiton the royal party drove to Sir George Yonge's, at Eastcot, where they dined; and after taking coffee proceeded to Exeter, which place they reached about seven in the evening. At the boundaries of the liberties they were met by the mayor and corporation, with an excellent band of music; and when they came to the city, the keys, according to custom, were presented to the King, who returned them to the mayor, saying: "They were already in very good hands." Then their majesties were conducted amidst a prodigious concourse of people to the deanry; and after shewing themselves at the windows, to gratify the anxious populace, they partook of an elegant supper, which had been provided by Dr. Buller, the dean. The same night a general illumination took place; and many elegant transparencies were displayed; the Guildhall, in particular, was lighted up with twelve hundred lamps of various colours, which, with the paintings intermixed, made a most beautiful appearance.

On Friday morning, about eleven, the mayor and corporation attended with an address, and were very graciously received. This was followed by another from the clergy, which met with the same reception. After these ceremonies, the royal visitors pro-

ceeded to the cathedral, where His Majesty was much struck with the magnificent painted window over the west door. The organ was finely touched by the late ingenious William Jackson, and the choir sang "Te Deum" in a masterly style.

From the cathedral the royal travellers went to the episcopal palace; and after walking on the promenade called the Northern Hay, they returned to the deanry to dinner.

About nine o'clock on Saturday morning their majesties and suite left Exeter; and by three in the afternoon reached Saltram, the seat of Lord Boringdon, now Earl of Morley, where they were greeted by a royal salute; and in the evening the house was brilliantly illuminated.

The next day, being Sunday, the royal family went to Saltram chapel, and heard divine service performed by the Rev. Mr. Mayow, domestic chaplain to Lord Boringdon. About two o'clock the same day the Duke of York arrived; in honour of whom royal salutes were fired from the citadel and batteries.

Their majesties after public worship visited the grotto, bathing house, and orangery, while the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth took an airing round Saltram Park.

After breakfast, on Monday, the royal party set out for Plymouth, where the inhabitants had erected at the entrance a triumphal arch, outside of which

arrangements were made for a procession: the band of the South Devon militia, preceded by constables, walked first; then the mayor and corporation; then the King, Queen, princesses, and royal suite. The whole moved slowly through the town, amidst a numerous concourse of people, with bells ringing, guns firing, and the music playing. Their majesties, who appeared in excellent spirits, shewed every attention to the spectators; and on taking leave of the corporation, after passing the boundaries of the borough, the King expressed his satisfaction at the respectful manner in which he had been received. A daylight illumination at the mayor's door attracted the royal observation, on account of its singularity and pleasing effect. It consisted of His Majesty's arms, with a star emitting a continued ray of light; the motto, "He liveth and reigneth."

About eleven, the royal suite reached the Dock, where they were received by the troops in garrison, and saluted with a *feu de joye*. The cannon on the ramparts also fired, and were answered by the fort at Plymouth. Their majesties alighted at Commissioner Laforey's, in the Dock Yard; and after taking some refreshment, proceeded to visit the Impregnable, of ninety guns, Admiral Bickerton's flag ship. The King's barge, which was steered by Captain Byard, had the royal standard flying, and was preceded by the admiral's barge: the rest

following in their different stations to the number of about forty; which, together with the various pleasure-boats, and the beauty of the day, formed the finest sight imaginable. An exceeding handsome cutter, rowed by six young women, and steered by a seventh, all habited in loose white gowns, with nankeen safeguards and black bonnets, each wearing a sash across her shoulders, of royal purple, with "Long live their majesties," in gold letters, kept close to the King's barge to and from the ship.

As their majesties ascended the quarter-deck of the Impregnable, a salute was fired as well from her as from every ship in the harbour and Sound; the citadel and small forts joining in the same; and also the Lynx, a Dutch man of war, lately arrived from the East Indies.

Their majesties remained on board about an hour; and when they put off, the standard and admiralty flags were hauled down, after which the ship was dressed in less than a minute with the colours of all nations. This appeared to attract the notice of the Queen and princesses more than any thing they had before seen; and they lay alongside the ship for some time to admire the novel spectacle.

On landing, their majesties visited the ships in the dock, particularly the Gibraltar, which had been fitted up for their reception. This ship, taken by Lord Rodney, in the presence of the Duke of

Clarence, struck them wonderfully, being one of the finest two-deckers in the service.

At half past three, the King, Queen, and princesses, left the dock, and proceeded in state barges up Cat-water to Saltram. They were attended by an immense number of sloops, barges, and boats; the forts, the ships at anchor, and, lastly, all the guns in the park, saluting as they passed.

With such splendour and gaiety had the day passed, when a dreadful accident happened to throw a gloom over the general joy. A small sloop, without ballast, lying off Mutton Cove, opposite the gun wharf, was so overloaded with people that she overset, and twelve persons were drowned. The disaster did not occur till some minutes after the passing of the royal barge, so that their majesties were spared the shock which such a melancholy sight must have produced. On being informed of it after their return, they made enquiries into the circumstances, and ordered where assistance was necessary that it should be supplied at their expense; at the same time promising to provide for such widows or children as might have been left by any of the sufferers.

About eight on Thursday morning the King went on board the Southampton, to witness a grand naval review and mock engagement in the Sound, the sight of which afforded him considerable pleasure. On Friday, His Majesty, unaccompanied by

the royal family, went to the Victualling Office, in order to examine the state of the provisions, but without giving any previous notice of his intentions. Here he ordered a cask of beef to be opened promiscuously, and a piece to be taken out, which was sent immediately to Saltram, with orders that it should be dressed that day for his own dinner. The King then visited the lower fort, citadel, ramparts, and storehouse, and last of all the subterraneous works, into which only the Duke of Richmond, the governor, and chief engineer, were suffered to attend him.

When His Majesty mounted the upper part of the garrison, he was met by the mayor and corporation of Plymouth, the invalids, and a detachment of the South Devon militia, who attended him in his walk round the ramparts, the music playing "God save the King." At the governor's house, the mayor and corporation presented a loyal address, which was most graciously received; and they all had the honour to kiss the King's hand. His Majesty then left the fort, and proceeded by water to the gun wharf, where he surveyed the ordnance; after which, the workmen, headed by the chaplain, walked in procession before him according to their callings, and carrying the instruments of their labour; with which sight the King was very much amused.

The following day their majesties went to pay

their promised visit to Mount Edgecumbe, where they landed about ten o'clock, and were received by the noble owner of that romantic seat. Having stopped to take a view of the house, the august visitors perambulated the enchanting woods and groves by which it is surrounded. This visit was, indeed, marked with uncommon magnificence and taste. Sixteen young maidens, dressed in white, preceded the royal party, strewing roses, carnations, myrtles, and jessamines, in their path; and when they came to the steps leading to the grand arcade, each female on her knee presented an elegant bouquet to their majesties, by whom it was graciously received. In the same walks, particularly upon Maker Heights, the King was astonished at the grandeur of the scene; and the Queen and princesses beheld it with equal rapture. The dinner and dessert were in the most sumptuous and elegant style: two tables were laid out in the great hall, at the first of which sat the royal family, and at the second the Duke of Richmond, and the other great officers of state. The Queen was attended by the young and beautiful bride of the honourable Mr. Edgecumbe, the viscount's eldest son. Their majesties staid to coffee, and at six left the house, attended through the Sound up to Saltram by a large fleet of boats and barges, highly delighted with their day's entertainment. At night the mansion

of Mount Edgecumbe was most brilliantly illuminated, which, when beheld from the opposite shore, gave it the appearance of an enchanted castle.

The next day the royal family visited Maristow, the seat of Mr. Heywood, but now of Sir Manasseh Lopez, situated on the banks of the Tamar. Tamerton Woods, belonging to this estate, extend nearly three miles along the river, in the most striking and romantic situations, though in many places the precipices have a tremendous aspect. Several new roads were now cut through these woods for the accommodation of the royal visitors, who spent near two hours in surveying and admiring the sublimity of the scenery. In Bickley Wood, which is about half a mile behind the house towards Tavistock, their majesties and the princesses amused themselves till near five o'clock; and having taken some refreshment, they returned to Saltram, with a promise of renewing their visit to breakfast on the Monday following. Accordingly, at an early hour, the whole party set out for Maristow, that they might lose no time in exploring the variegated beauties of a place with which they had already been so much delighted. Here they spent the greatest part of the day in traversing the woods, climbing rugged heights, and walking along the winding banks of the river, charmed at every turn

with some new prospect that burst upon their view, and the picturesque effect of which abundantly gratified them for their labour. At four in the afternoon the royal party took leave of Mr. Heywood, and returned to Saltram to dinner.

The pleasure derived from the preceding excursions tempted their majesties to set out the next morning for Saltash ferry, where the barges were in readiness to carry them higher up the Tamar, the prospects from which furnished amusement sufficient to detain them till late in the afternoon.

On the following day, at an early hour, they again went to the ferry and embarked, in order to extend their navigation along the course of the river to a still farther distance than they had hitherto been; and after a propitious voyage, which was much enlivened by the crowds who lined both shores as they passed, the royal party landed at Kitley, an ancient demesne belonging to the Edgecumbe family, and situated about fourteen miles up the Tamar. The noble owner of this mansion was in readiness to receive his royal visitants on their landing, and that with the becoming dignity of a baron of old times. The ramparts of the castle were occupied by his vassals; and his lordship was attended at the water-side by a numerous train of tenantry and dependants, who shouted "God save the King." Suitable cars, with four wheels each,

and drawn by two ponies, had been provided to convey their majesties and the princesses to the castle, which stands on a lofty eminence about a quarter of a mile from the banks of the river. On the arrival of their majesties at the outer gate, twenty-one pateraroes were fired in honour of the illustrious visitors. After viewing the antique curiosities of the castle, particularly the armoury, and partaking of some refreshment, which was highly relished by keen appetites, the whole party re-embarked, with the intention of proceeding to the Salmon Weir, which for bold and picturesque scenery far exceeds all the views on the Tamar; but unfortunately, by stopping at Kitley, the advantage of the tide was lost, and their majesties were obliged to return to Saltram about two in the afternoon, much gratified with this fresh-water navigation, though disappointed in being under the necessity of shortening it.

The next day the King held a naval levee, when he was pleased to confer the honour of knighthood on Captain Thomas Byard, who had constantly steered the royal barge; several officers also received promotion, and the following sums were distributed by His Majesty's orders: viz. fifteen hundred pounds to the artificers and labourers of the dock-yard, victualling-office, and gun-wharf; two hundred and fifty pounds to the poor of Plymouth,

Stonehouse, and Dock; and two hundred to the crews of the barges that attended him during his stay.

It being known that their majesties would leave Saltram the following morning, an immense multitude assembled in the park, eager to catch a glimpse of the sovereign and his august consort ere they departed. Ever desirous to gratify the loyal wishes of their subjects, the King and Queen placed themselves near the windows, till curiosity became so troublesome that they were obliged to retire. An elderly woman, more forward than the rest, had the effrontery to thrust a petition through the window where Her Majesty stood. The paper fell on the inside, at the Queen's feet, who hesitated a little, then stooped and took it up, which act of extraordinary condescension greatly affected the populace. This was an application for admittance into an asylum appropriated to decayed widows, and the daughters of persons in the naval service; and though the manner of presenting the request was far enough from being respectful, the favour was granted.

The next morning their majesties took leave of their noble host, with many kind expressions for the entertainment they had experienced during a stay of twelve days, in all of which they had enjoyed, to use their own words, inexpressible delight. The princesses left this part of the country with regret; and the eldest was heard to observe to one

of her sisters, while walking on the side of the Tamar, "We never before had the pleasure of seeing nature in the perfection of beauty: our lives hitherto seem to have been spent in a cloister rather than in a kingdom abounding every where with lovely prospects, and inhabited by a generous people."

At three o'clock in the afternoon the royal party reached Exeter, where they dined, and passed the night with the dean. The next morning, at eight, they proceeded to Weymouth, without stopping any where on the journey; and about four o'clock their majesties alighted at Gloucester Lodge in high spirits, and to the universal joy of the inhabitants.

On the following Monday the weather, which for some days had been unfavourable, cleared up, and the royal family resumed their marine excursions. About eleven in the forenoon, the King, Queen, and princesses, accompanied by the Lords Howe and Chatham, with several other noblemen and persons of distinction, went on board the Southampton, and with a pleasant gale, sailed off and on till near three in the afternoon, enjoying the breeze with much pleasure. During this little cruize, the frigate several times passed so near the stern of the Magnificent as to touch the fly of her ensign. In the course of the day, the Queen presented Captain Douglas with a gold medallion, representing the ship which he commanded, and desired that it

should be worn by his lady as an ornament round her neck. A similar medallion was also presented to each of the ladies of the royal suite.

Their majesties having long wished to be present at the performance of divine service in a ship of war, went for that purpose on board the Magnificent, in the morning of the sixth of September; when, as soon as the royal barge appeared, the yards were manned, and the marines received the illustrious visitants under arms. The King was much pleased with their military appearance, nor less so with the neatness of the sailors in their Sunday dress. The arrangement was as follows: the King, Queen, and princesses, occupied the starboard side, under the quarter-deck awning. The larboard side contained the nobility. In the centre of the quarter-deck stood the officers of the ship; and behind them were placed the ship's company and marines in the form of a crescent. Ensigns of different kinds were hung round the deck. The church service was performed by the reverend Mr. Clifton, chaplain of the Goliath, who concluded it with an excellent discourse, on these words of the psalmist: "Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

In his sermon the preacher took occasion to touch upon the presence of the sovereign, who had so recently been providentially restored to the

prayers of his people. This appropriate allusion sensibly affected Her Majesty and the Princess Elizabeth, who were observed to wipe the pearly drops from their eyes: and when the service was over, the King and Queen went most kindly up to the clergyman, thanking him for his discourse, and hoping that the length of the duty had not fatigued him. Her Majesty, in particular, expressed the pleasure which she had felt from the sermon, a copy of which she condescended to request might be sent to Windsor. While the dinner was serving out to the ship's company, the royal family retired into the great cabin, except the Princess Elizabeth, who remained on deck for the purpose of seeing the sailors at their meal; an act of affable courtesy that gave the honest tars great delight.

Having taken some refreshment, the King desired the barge to be manned, and at two o'clock the royal family left the ship with the same honours as distinguished their entrance.

The next morning their majesties and the princesses visited Milton Abbey, where they were received by Lord Milton and Miss Damer; green baize strewed with flowers being spread from the door of the house to the carriages. After resting a little, the royal visitors made an excursion over the grounds; the ladies in open carriages, and His Majesty on horseback, accompanied by Lord Milton. The ride was prolonged till four o'clock, when the

whole party returned to the Abbey to dinner, which in every respect did honour to the noble host, and gave great satisfaction to his illustrious guests.

On the following evening their majesties had a select party to a ball and supper, in commemoration of their wedding-day, which anniversary they never failed to keep while it could be enjoyed with mutual pleasure:

> ———The seasons thus,
> As ceaseless round a jarring world they roll'd,
> Still found them happy; and consenting Spring
> Shed her own rosy garlands on their heads.

The period of the royal residence at Weymouth being now nearly at a close, every day almost was devoted to bathing and aquatic excursions, for which last the whole party had conceived such an enthusiastic affection, that no weather could deter them from indulging in the amusement.

On Sunday, the thirteenth of September, after divine service at church, whither the royal family rarely ever missed going on foot, the King, Queen, and princesses, with the French ambassador, and other distinguished persons, walked on the esplanade a considerable time, surrounded by thousands of spectators. The same day His Majesty was pleased to confer the honour of knighthood on Captain Andrew Snape Douglas, of the Southampton frigate.

The next morning the royal party quitted Weymouth for the season, on a visit to the Marquis of Bath at Longleat, taking Sherborne Castle in their way, where they breakfasted with Lord Digby; after which they proceeded to Stourton, the seat of Sir Richard Colt Hoare; the beauties of which delightful place occupied their attention some time. About half-past five in the afternoon they arrived at Longleat, where many thousands of loyal subjects were assembled in the park, from every part of the country, testifying the joy which they felt at the sight of their sovereign, by singing "God save the King," in the chorus of which Her Majesty and the princesses took a lively part. On Tuesday morning the King and Queen rode round the grounds in an open chaise, to gratify the eager curiosity of the people; many of whom were afterwards admitted into the royal presence, in the apartments of the marquis's noble mansion, where a very sumptuous entertainment was provided for the royal guests.

After breakfast on Wednesday morning, about eleven, their majesties took leave of this hospitable family, and continued their route to Tottenham Park, the seat of Lord Aylesbury, where they arrived the same afternoon, and rested, according to a previous arrangement, till Friday, when they returned to the Queen's house at Windsor, in perfect health, after an absence of twelve weeks. As soon

as the King and Queen got out of their carriage, they were welcomed home by the younger princesses, whose embraces they received most affectionately, and at the same time appeared not less pleased with the joy that their presence had lighted up in the countenances of the domestics of the royal household, and the surrounding spectators.

CHAPTER XVII.

Gala at Windsor on the Birth-Day of the Prince.—Visit to Weymouth in 1791.—*On Royal Progresses, and those of Queen Elizabeth.—Arrival of the Duke and Duchess of York.—Ceremonial of their Re-marriage.—Extra Drawing-Room.—Question respecting Precedency.—Theatrical Visits.—Celebration of the Queen's Birth-Day,* 1792.—*Anecdotes of the Duchess of York.—Another Visit to Weymouth.—Act of Charity.—War with France.*

THE birth-day of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on the twelfth of August, 1791, was celebrated with great splendour at Windsor, where the Queen gave a grand gala, in a style of peculiar elegance, and on an extensive scale.

The party was both numerous and brilliant, more than three hundred persons of the first rank being present. The ball commenced as soon as their majesties were seated, which was about eight o'clock, and continued till twelve, when the whole company adjourned to St. George's Hall, to partake of an elegant entertainment. The royal family supped on a throne erected at the upper end of the hall, and their guests at two tables sixty feet long, which

were decorated in a most beautiful manner. In the middle of one was a pedestal with a column, round which were entwined roses and branches of flowers. At the top was a flag, and under it was figured a resplendent glory, encircled with the order of the garter, and the portrait of the Prince in the middle, with the crest and feathers. On the angles of the pedestal were musical figures; and a circular motion was given to the whole by means of clock-work. Nothing could have a more pleasing effect, which was heightened by the fine illuminations in the room.

Soon after this entertainment, the King and Queen, with three of the princesses, went to Weymouth for a few weeks: but though the appearance of royalty naturally drew a concourse of people thither, this visit was not marked with so much gaiety as distinguished the former residence of their majesties at this favoured watering-place.

While the sovereign and his august partner strove to gratify the loyal wishes of the people by every attention in their power, consistent with the dignity of their station, they carefully abstained from such spectacles as might prove burthensome to their subjects. In this respect their progresses were widely different from those of Queen Elizabeth, whose visits bore so very heavy upon the persons honoured with them, that they might, without a quibble, have been called visitations. Their majesties, how-

ever, fully merited the encomium bestowed upon that great princess, of whom an historian, who has delineated her character with great accuracy, says, "that in her progress she was the most easy to be approached: private persons and magistrates, men and women, country-people and children, came joyfully, and without any fear, to wait upon her, and see her. Her ears were then open to the complaints of the afflicted, and of those who had been any way injured. She would not suffer the meanest of her people to be shut out from the places where she resided, but the greatest and the least were then in a manner levelled. She took with her own hand, and read with the greatest goodness, the petitions of the meanest rustics; and she would frequently assure them that she would take a particular care of their affairs; and she would ever be as good as her word. She was never seen angry with the most unseasonable or uncourtly approach: she was never offended by the most impudent or importunate petitioner."

This year witnessed an accession to the royal family, in the marriage of the Duke of York to the Princess Frederica Charlotta Ulrica, the eldest daughter of the late King of Prussia, by his first consort, the Princess Elizabeth Christina Ulrica, of Brunswick Wolfenbuttle, and the only issue of that union. His royal highness, during his residence in Germany, had conceived an affectionate

attachment to the princess; and the sentiment being mutual, the consent of the parents on both sides was soon obtained to the marriage, which ceremony took place at Berlin on the twenty-ninth of September. The duke and duchess left the Prussian capital on the seventeenth of October; and after stopping about a week at Hanover, and four days at Osnabrug, they proceeded for England by the way of Brussels and Lisle to Calais. In this journey they were very much annoyed by the brutal mobs which then abounded in every town and village, committing the most abominable excesses in the name of liberty, and insulting, as aristocrats, all persons who had a respectable equipage. At Lisle their royal highnesses were exposed to considerable danger, from the savage rout whom the arms on the carriage had attracted, and who kept possession of the vehicle till they had completely satisfied their revolutionary spirit, by obliterating the ensigns of royalty. Matters did not improve as they advanced; and at Calais the illustrious travellers had the additional mortification of being detained from Monday till Friday the seventeenth of November, by adverse winds. Early in the morning of that day, however, the packet got out of the harbour, and after a boisterous passage, landed the duke and duchess with their suite on Dover beach about noon. Owing to the fatigue which her royal highness had undergone, she remained with her

consort at Dover till the next day, when they set out for town; and between five and six in the afternoon reached York House, where the Prince of Wales received his royal sister in the great hall, and congratulated her in the German language on her arrival in England.

The duchess being too much indisposed to be presented that evening to their majesties, who were then at Buckingham House, retired immediately to rest, by the recommendation of the physician. On Sunday at noon the duke walked to Carleton House, and returned with the Prince, who staid at York House more than an hour. In the mean time all the nobility in town continued to leave their cards; but of course no persons were introduced. A little before four the Prince arrived again, and within a few minutes afterwards his royal highness handed the duchess to his carriage, the Dukes of York and Clarence following them. Upon their arrival at Buckingham House, the Duchess of York was conducted by the Prince of Wales on her right hand, and the duke on her left, into the grand drawing-room, where were the King, Queen, and six princesses, all of whom rose and advanced into the middle of the room to meet the stranger, who dropped on her knees before their majesties, but was instantly raised most affectionately between the King and Queen, surrounded by their happy children.

On Tuesday evening their majesties, accompanied by the Princess-Royal and Princess Augusta, in one coach, and the Princesses Elizabeth, Mary, Sophia, and Amelia, attended by Lady Charlotte Finch, in another carriage, paid a visit to York House, where they were received by the duke and duchess, the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Clarence, attended by the duke's household officers. After reciprocal salutations in the great hall, the royal party were led to the lower apartment, fronting the park, where the following ceremony was observed: Tea and coffee, introduced by the servants in waiting, were received by gentlemen of the duke's establishment, and handed primarily to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who presented the same to the King; while the Duchess of York waited in a similar manner on Her Majesty. At a quarter past ten, the King, Queen, and princesses, returned to Buckingham House; the Prince, Duke and Duchess of York, and Duke of Clarence, attending their illustrious parents to their carriage.

The next evening, at seven o'clock, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, and the Bishop of London, came to the Queen's House; the archbishop attended by two pages and his train-bearer; and the chancellor in his full robes, with the great seal carried before him, and his train supported.

In about an hour afterwards, the Prince of Wales,

the Duke and Duchess of York, and the Duke of Clarence, entered the palace, and were immediately conducted to Her Majesty's drawing-room. The prelates and the chancellor were in a separate apartment, preparing the form of the register. At nine o'clock, every thing being ready, the bishops and the chancellor were admitted into the royal presence; upon which, the procession, attended by the officers of the chapel-royal, proceeded to the grand saloon, where books of the marriage ceremony were delivered to all the royal family. At the request of the archbishop, a table was placed in the form of an altar, narrow enough for his grace to reach across, and join the hands of the royal pair. At half-past nine the ceremony was performed by the archbishop, assisted by the Bishop of London, His Majesty standing at one end of the altar, and the Queen at the other extremity; the Duke and Duchess of York in the centre, the primate opposite to them, and the lord chancellor standing behind him; the Prince of Wales next to the duchess, and the Duke of Clarence to his brother, the Duke of York. The princesses were seated on chairs at a distance from the altar. The Prince of Wales gave away the bride, who, at the conclusion of the ceremony, went to His Majesty, and attempted to kneel, which the King with some difficulty prevented, and raising her in his arms, affectionately saluted her, and presented her to the Queen.

The certificate of the marriage was then signed by their majesties, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Clarence, and the chancellor; after which his lordship and the bishops retired.

The royal family returned to the drawing-room, and at a few minutes before eleven the duke and duchess went to York House, accompanied by the Prince and the Duke of Clarence, who were entertained with an elegant supper.

On the following day the Queen held an extraordinary drawing-room at St. James's Palace, for the purpose of publicly receiving the Duchess of York, who went in state, and on her arrival waited first upon Her Majesty in her private apartment; after which she passed through the guard-chamber into the drawing-room, where she paid her respects to the King, and in the course of half-an-hour returned to York House. On this occasion her royal highness wore a bandeau of brilliants on her head-dress, in which were three diamond pins that had been given to her by the King. She also wore a rich pair of diamond ear-rings, and a necklace, the presents of Her Majesty, with other ornaments of great beauty. The whole of the royal family, except the bride and bridegroom, wore elegant silver favours; and the same day the Princess Sophia was at the drawing-room for the first time.

This marriage having produced some speculation and difficulty respecting the order of precedency,

whether the Duchess of York was entitled to rank immediately after the Queen, or the princesses, Her Majesty wished to set the question at rest, by a reference to the College of Arms. Accordingly, the case was submitted to the consideration of the Heralds' Office, who decided, that rank dates from birth, without any relation to marriage, and therefore, that the princesses of England, as being in the line of succession to the throne, in failure of male issue, took precedence of a princess of Prussia. This determination corresponds with the rule in Blackstone, that all single ladies rank as their eldest brother does in the life-time of his father.

This solicitude on the part of the Queen was not only expressive of her maternal feelings, but an instance of her great prudence, in taking care at this early period to provide against any unpleasant disputes that might arise hereafter about points of etiquette.

Royal marriages, especially where many interests are involved, too often occasion jealousies and intrigues; but never did one bring more harmony with it than the present, though in an essential point it has not been crowned with the fruition which the hopes of the family and the nation fondly anticipated.

On the twenty-eighth of December their majesties, with the Prince of Wales, the Princess-Royal, the Duke and Duchess of York, the Duke of Cla-

ence, and the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, went to Covent-Garden Theatre, where the "Duenna," and the pantomime of "Blue Beard," were represented. The Queen was dressed in a rich gold brocade, the ground scarlet, with a profusion of diamonds; and the appearance of the whole royal party afforded great pleasure to a crowded house. But on the third of January a different scene occurred at the Haymarket Theatre, where the Drury Lane company were then performing till the restoration of their own establishment. On that day the royal family went to see the fourth representation of "Cymon," which of course drew an immense assemblage of persons; and the theatre being small, the rush at the pit door was so violent, that one person was trodden to death, and others were severely bruised.

The Queen's birth-day, this year, exhibited a most brilliant court, on account of the late addition to the royal family.

Between twelve and one the company began to assemble, occupying chiefly the three anti-chambers leading to the drawing-room, into which, as the assembly increased, some few persons passed, contrary to etiquette, but compelled by the pressure. A number of the first nobility came early, and about two o'clock, the arrival of their majesties and the princesses was announced, the lines through which they passed being formed by six or

seven rows in each of the apartments. The King passed through this avenue, noticing the company on each side, but without stopping for conversation. The Queen, on the contrary, spoke for one or two minutes to almost every person whom she knew, particularly in the last anti-chamber, which was nearly full of ladies, with whom she conversed separately, and with great affability, for some time. The drawing-room filled immediately on the entrance of their majesties, when the King remained on the right side, and the Queen on the left, very near to the doors, but without approaching the throne. The crowd now became so great, that many ladies were more than an hour in passing from the doors to the circles, though not distant above four yards, while some, unable to support the fatigue, went away. The pressure was chiefly on that side of the room occupied by Her Majesty; for there were the princesses, and as many ladies as could approach them, forming not so much a circle round the Queen as a lane extending on her left, as far as the Princess Sophia, the most distant of their royal highnesses. The Duchess of York, during the short time she stayed, remained with the Queen; but soon after her arrival she became indisposed, and having walked into the second anti-chamber, fainted away. Hartshorn and water were immediately brought, and her royal highness was soon sufficiently recovered to return home.

When the duchess set out from York House she was saluted with the music of marrow-bones and cleavers; the discordancy of which startled her at first; and it was with great difficulty that her royal highness could be made to believe that this curious concert was intended as a compliment. On its being explained, she bowed courteously to the populace, and ordered a present to be given to the performers, who rent the air with acclamations.

Another instance of her affability appeared in the manner with which she celebrated her royal consort's birth-day, the same year, when she gave a grand dinner at Oatlands to all the duke's tradesmen, allowing each of them two guineas for the expense of a carriage from town. After the entertainment there was a dance, and the duchess opened the ball herself, with the Prince of Wales. In the course of the same summer, a company of strolling players, having obtained leave to exhibit in a barn at Weybridge, petitioned her royal highness to honour the performance with her presence, to which she consented, and gave tickets to all her servants. Soon afterwards, a methodist teacher came to preach a charity-sermon in the same theatre, and application was again made to the duchess to visit the place, which she complied with; but the servants desired to be excused, on the plea that they did not understand English. "Oh!" said her royal highness, "you had no objection to go to the

comedy, which you understood much less; and so you shall go to the sermon." The duchess accordingly went with all her train, and contributed handsomely on the occasion, as well for them as for herself.

The conclusion of this summer was spent by their majesties and the princesses in a private manner at Weymouth, for which place they seemed to have a growing attachment. During this visit, the royal party rode over to Dorchester, where, among other objects, they inspected the new county gaol, when a farmer, of the name of Pitfield, who had been confined there seven years, for a debt amounting to two hundred and twenty pounds, incurred by a lawyer's bill, presented a petition on his knees to the King, who caused the money to be paid; and thus the poor man was immediately restored to his liberty and friends. Such were the acts of our gracious monarch, in which he had always the cheerful concurrence of his beloved partner, both being most happy when contributing to the happiness of others, and never feeling more uneasiness than when their means were inadequate to the relief of human suffering.

With what acuteness of sensibility, therefore, they must have contemplated the agonizing tragedy at this time exhibited on the bloody theatre of France, may be faintly conceived, but cannot be described. The condition of the poor emigrants,

thrown upon our shores, to escape the worse than savage fury of their brutalized countrymen, excited the tender commiseration of the whole royal family, whose bounty, though secret, was extensively liberal, and delicately bestowed, particularly where the objects of it had been precipitated from affluence to wretchedness, incapable of digging for a livelihood, and ashamed to beg for support.

But while there was a consolation in relieving these exiles, who, with all their misfortunes, might be considered as so many persons saved from the fury of a tempest, the compassionate hearts of our sovereign and his consort sorrowed deeply for the illustrious victims who were left to perish in the revolutionary storm, a melancholy sacrifice to that accursed Moloch, the madness of the people.

When the Countess of Sutherland, now Marchioness of Stafford, arrived from Paris, and related to their majesties a small portion only of the horrors which she had witnessed, and, among other things, mentioned the circumstance of her having sent many articles of her own dress to the hapless Maria Antoinette, as well as some of her son's for the young dauphin, all of which were thankfully received, the feelings of the King and Queen were so completely overpowered, that they both wept during the affecting narrative.

Shortly afterwards, the mildest monarch that ever

sat on the throne of France, was murdered for his virtues; and before the expiration of the year, the royal widow was dragged from her cell and bed of straw, to glut the monsters with her innocent blood.

In the mean time, the insolence of the new republic had compelled the English government to arm for self-defence; and whatever may be said by those who are callous to revolutionary enormities, nothing short of the prompt measures then adopted could have saved this country from the horrors of anarchy. There were then, as there are now, men among us of such perverse dispositions, as to be indifferent to all consequences, for the sake of a political change; men who hailed the savage march of the French as the progress of liberty, and who gloried in scenes that were a reproach to human nature. Had the wishes and counsels of these persons prevailed, the probability is that our own calendar would have been marked in letters of blood, commemorating another anniversary of royal martyrdom. Happily, however, the fortitude of the sovereign, and the energy of ministers, proved an effectual mound against republican fury and internal faction. War being inevitable, three battalions of guards, destined for foreign service, marched off from before Buckingham House, in the morning of the twenty-fifth of February, 1793, Her Majesty and the three

eldest princesses honouring their departure with good wishes, and a courteousness of behaviour that sensibly affected both the private soldiers and their officers.

But this was not the only instance of royal goodness manifested towards the brave men who were called out in the service of their king and country at this period: for, besides actively promoting the subscription entered into among the ladies to provide flannel waistcoats for the troops, the Queen and all her amiable daughters actually condescended to superintend the manufacture of those necessary articles of comfort.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Illegal Marriage in the Royal Family.—Dreadful Occurrence at the Haymarket Theatre.—Their Majesties visit the Fleet at Portsmouth.—Death of the Duke of Mecklenburg and his Sister.—Arrival of the Stadtholder and his Family.—Reception of the Turkish Ambassador.—Marriage of the Prince of Wales.—Visit of the Queen to Lord Orford.—Tour to Weymouth.—Attempts on the King's Life.—Violent Storm.—Injury sustained by Her Majesty.—A Female Lunatic.—Birth of the Princess Charlotte.—Domestic Unhappiness.—Reflections.

The year 1794 opened very inauspiciously to their majesties, whose parental feelings were much agitated by the recent marriage of Prince Augustus to Lady Augusta Murray, first at Rome, and next by banns at the parish church of St. George, Hanover Square, in express defiance of the statute. It has been confidently said, that His Royal Highness wrote a letter to his father, requesting permission to renounce any claims which he might have to the succession, on condition that the alliance which he had formed should remain undisturbed. This, however, was not in His Majesty's

power to grant; and the marriage was accordingly pronounced by the proper legal court null and void.

Disquietudes of this nature are peculiarly afflicting where they occur, though the bitterness of them cannot easily be conceived by persons in humbler life.

Shortly after the discovery of this irregular connexion, the subsequent dissolution of which evinced its imprudence, their majesties were distressed by one of the most dreadful accidents that ever marked their appearance in public.

On the evening of the third of February the royal family went to the little theatre in the Haymarket, which drew as usual, on such occasions, an immense crowd of persons; and some, who were foremost in entering the pit, fell down, when the rush behind, like a torrent, not only prevented their recovery, but brought down others, over whose bodies the multitude passed into the body of the house, amidst screams and groans that were terrible beyond description. Fifteen persons were thus crushed to death, and about twenty more suffered so severely from the bruises which they received as to be incurable. Fortunately, their majesties did not witness the harrowing spectacle; but when apprised of what had happened, they made a resolution never to visit that place of amusement again.

A very different scene engaged the royal attention in the following summer, on the arrival of

Lord Howe at Spithead, with the ships captured by him in his hard-fought battle on the first of June. This seasonable victory had the effect of relieving the public mind from the depression produced by the gloomy state of affairs on the continent; and, therefore, His Majesty very judiciously determined to invigorate the national spirit by honouring the fleet with his presence. Accordingly, on Thursday, the twenty-sixth of June, the King, Queen, Prince Ernest, and the princesses, entered Portsmouth, where Lord Howe and the governor were in readiness to conduct the royal party to the Dock-Yard, from whence they all proceeded to Spithead. The King carried in his own hand a valuable diamond-hilted sword, which he presented to the noble admiral on board the Queen Charlotte, as a mark of his satisfaction and entire approbation. His Majesty also presented a gold chain to admirals Hood and Gardner; the like honour being likewise conferred on Sir Roger Curtis, first captain to Lord Howe. In the evening the royal family returned, and were rowed up the harbour to view the six French prizes, which lay there at their moorings. On Friday the King held a grand naval levee, when marks of distinction were bestowed upon several officers; after which, the party dined with the commissioner of the dock-yard.

The next day their majesties and family attended the launching of the Prince of Wales, a fine ship of

ninety-eight guns; after which they embarked to go on board the Aquilon frigate, the Honorable Captain Stopford, at Spithead. As the barges approached the fleet, two guns from the Queen Charlotte were the signal for a general salute: when every ship in consequence fired twenty-one guns, and the crews cheered. On their majesties entering the frigate, and getting under sail, the salute was repeated, and the bands of the different ships played martial symphonies for the greatest part of the day. The Aquilon, after sailing round the fleet, stood away towards the Needles; but there being very little wind, she touched the ground in putting about, to the eastward of Cowes Point. By this accident the ship was delayed near two hours; and as the night was coming on, their majesties and all the royal party took to the barges.

On Monday morning the King and his family went on board the Niger frigate, and sailed for Southampton, where they landed in the afternoon, and immediately proceeded in their carriages for Windsor. The Queen on her arrival received the tidings of the death of her eldest brother, Adolphus-Frederick, Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz; and before the expiration of the court mourning on that occasion, news came of the demise of Her Majesty's sister, Princess Christina; which renders it necessary here to correct an inadvertent slip in a former

chapter, where the death of this princess is erroneously stated instead of that of her aunt.

The aspect of the times was now exceedingly dismal, and the progress of the French arms became more alarming on account of the revolutionary principles which went along with the torrent, like the degrading doctrines of Mahomet with the swords of the Saracens. It was melancholy to see with what readiness the people of the neighbouring countries fraternized with the republicans, whose successes appeared to have obliterated the horror produced by their crimes. Holland, which had so often repelled the ambition of monarchical France, now seemed proud of being considered as a province of that country. The stadtholder in consequence was under the necessity of seeking an asylum in England, to escape the tender mercies of the new disciples of liberty; and on the twenty-sixth of January, 1795, his serene highness, accompanied by the Princess Frederica-Louisa-Wilhelmina, his daughter, and Prince William-George-Frederick, his second son, arrived in London.

The reception which the illustrious fugitives met with was such as might have been expected, from the characteristic generosity of the nation, and the sympathetic feeling of their majesties. Immediate orders were given to fit up the palace of Hampton Court for their residence; and in the mean time

they were accommodated with apartments at Kew, where the Queen frequently visited them, and contrived by every means in her power to make them forget the cruel persecution which had driven them into exile.

Another remarkable visitor, who made his public appearance at the British court at this time, was the ambassador from Constantinople. On the fifth of February, his excellency and suite came to town in grand procession, and the concourse of people was so great, that when they arrived at St. James's, the horse and foot guards had considerable difficulty in clearing the way. The ambassador addressed himself to the King in the Turkish language, which was translated by the dragoman; and the same ceremony was repeated to the Queen, after which the drawing-room commenced, and the business of the court proceeded with the accustomed forms.

The presents sent to the King by the Grand Signior consisted of a pair of pistols, the stocks and barrels of which were of solid gold; four Arabian horses, with bridles and saddles trimmed with gold, and a gold dagger and belt, ornamented with pearls and diamonds: to the Queen and princesses a chest of silks, embroidered with gold, and a noble plume of feathers united at the bottom by a band of solid gold, and ornamented at the top with diamonds;

chests of rich silks also were presented to the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Portland, and Lord Grenville.

Soon after this an event occurred that diffused great joy over the nation, and created high expectations which were never realized. This was the marriage of the heir apparent with his first cousin, the Princess Caroline of Brunswick, which ceremony was performed in the presence of their majesties, and a brilliant assemblage of the nobility, on the evening of the eighth of April this year, at the chapel royal.

At the beginning of July, Her Majesty, accompanied by her six daughters, the Duchess of York, and the Princess of Orange, did the late Earl of Orford the honour of a visit at Strawberry Hill, where they remained three hours perfectly delighted with the curiosities of the mansion, the gardens, and the prospect. In a letter written to General Conway a few days afterwards, his lordship says, "The Queen was uncommonly condescending and gracious, and deigned to drink my health when I presented her with the last glass, and to thank me for all my attentions. Indeed, my memory de veille cour was but once in default. As I had been assured that Her Majesty would be attended by her chamberlain, yet was not, I had no glove ready when I received her at the step of her coach; yet

she honoured me with her hand to lead her up stairs; nor did I recollect my omission when I led her down again."

The latter part of the summer was spent by their majesties and all the princesses at Weymouth, from whence they did not return till the autumn, when the situation of public affairs rendered an early call of parliament necessary.

It being announced that the King would open the session in person on the twenty-ninth of October, an immense crowd assembled in the park, many from mere curiosity, but others with the most desperate designs of mischief. As the state carriage passed along, it was with great difficulty the guards could clear the way; and near the Ordnance Office a bullet, supposed to have been discharged from an air-gun, perforated the glass, but happily without doing any other injury.

His Majesty, with his characteristic coolness and intrepidity, said to Lord Westmoreland, "That's a shot;" and instead of leaning back, or striving to avoid the assassin, he pointed towards the round hole in the window, and carefully examined it. On entering the House of Peers, he said to the chancellor, "My lord, I have been shot at:" but immediately proceeded to the important business before him, and having delivered his speech from the throne, returned as if nothing had happened. The same gang of ruffians, however, followed his

coach in great numbers; and as the carriage passed opposite Spring Garden Terrace, another stone was thrown, which fortunately only struck the frame-work between the windows. The crowd now pressed so closely round the coach, that His Majesty, in some agitation, waved his hands to the guards on each side as a signal to keep off the multitude. In this way he proceeded on through the park, and round by the stable yard into St. James's Palace, at the front gate. Here again a fresh tumult took place just as the King was about to alight; which proved too plainly the murderous designs of the ferocious rabble; but providentially they were frustrated in their object, which disappointment enraged them so much that they attacked the coach with stones, and did it considerable injury; continuing this species of mischief all the way along Pall-Mall to the Mews. Notwithstanding these dreadful appearances, the King ordered his private carriage to be brought up, and in a few minutes entered it to go to the Queen's House, though surrounded by a tumultuary and infuriated horde, every one of whom seemed bent upon assassination. There being now no guards to intimidate them, the mob rushed upon the carriage with savage fury, and one miscreant attempted to burst open the door. This attack was made by sixteen or seventeen wretches, who issued forth from the great mass; and then it was that the person

of the sovereign was in the most imminent danger. A gentleman of the Navy Office, who stood by at the time, put his hand into his pocket, and cocked a brace of pistols which he had with him, when seeing the life-guards at a distance, it immediately occurred to him that their assistance would be more effectual than his own; he accordingly ran with the utmost speed, and brought them up to the rescue of their master; but fortunately His Majesty's coachman had already succeeded in extricating the carriage from the mob; and the ruffians having already mingled with the crowd, it was impossible to mark any of them. One of the guards, however, on coming up, perceiving a fellow as he thought forward in assailing the King, lifted up his sword, and would have cut him down, had he not been prevented from doing so by the gracious interposition of His Majesty.

The situation of the Queen and Princesses during these commotions, some knowledge of which could not be kept from them, may easily be conceived; and yet it is a fact that His Majesty related the occurrences to them with as much calmness as if his life had not been any way endangered; nay, more; confident in the attachment of his people, and the protection of Providence, he went with Her Majesty and three of the princesses the very next day to Covent Garden Theatre. At the entrance of the royal visitors, the house, which was thronged

in every part, resounded with, "God save the King," and this loyal song was called for three times during the evening.

Between the hours of one and four in the morning of the sixth of November, a hurricane raged with a degree of violence that perhaps was never exceeded in England, unless in the great storm of the year 1704. Their majesties, who were at Buckingham House, arose from their beds, as did many hundreds of families, in and about town; for such was the fury and pressure of the elemental strife, that scarcely any fabric seemed capable of resisting its force.

The moral atmosphere was not less dismal at this period: and the historian of the present reign will have to record, with serious concern, the fact, that after the outrageous proceedings at the opening of the session of parliament, when the monarch had nearly been torn in pieces by the populace, persons of rank, calling themselves the Whig Club, published a declaration to the people full of inflammatory matter, and tending to blow discontent into rebellion. The effect of this appeal to the worst passions of the public was exhibited in little more than a week by another attack upon the person of the sovereign; for on the night of the first of February, as the royal family were returning from the theatre to Buckingham House, about half way up Pall-Mall, a stone was flung at the coach, in which

were their majesties, and the lady in waiting, which, after breaking the window glass, and entering the carriage, struck the Queen on the cheek, and fell into Lady Harrington's lap. The King took up the stone, and carried it with him to the palace. An investigation respecting this act of violence took place the next day at the office of the secretary of state at Whitehall, but without eliciting any discovery.

In less than a fortnight after this perfidious attempt, an extraordinary scene occurred at Buckingham House, into which a woman, genteelly dressed, contrived to gain admittance one Sunday evening, and was making her way to the Queen's apartments, when she was stopped by a female servant, who demanded her business, and where she was going. The strange visitant replied that she was going to her mother, Mrs. Guelph, the Queen, who had got some writings belonging to her; and that if they were not restored she would commit some horrible deed.

The woman upon this was committed for the night, and the next day conveyed to Bow Street, where, in her examination, she persisted in saying that her name was Charlotte-Georgiana-Mary-Anne Guelph, adding that the late Edward Duke of York was her father, that she was born at Rome, and had been sold to a gentleman in Spain, with more incoherences of the same kind, which

left no room to doubt of her insanity, and proper care was taken of her.

Amidst the gloom which overspread the kingdom at this period, the birth of a daughter to the heir-apparent afforded some beams of comfort to the royal family and the people. This interesting event took place early in the morning of the seventh of January, 1796; and on the eleventh of the following month the baptismal ceremony was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the presence of their majesties, who stood sponsors, with the Princess Royal as the representative of the Duchess of Brunswick. The Queen made the responses, and gave the name of Charlotte-Augusta to the royal infant; but the christening was conducted without any parade or entertainment, and at an early hour the company separated. The pleasure, however, afforded by this addition to the royal lineage was soon counterbalanced and alloyed by reports of a rupture in that quarter where it was reasonable to expect that such a blessing would have relumed even the dying embers of affection. But the birth of the Princess Charlotte, instead of bringing union, appeared to have the contrary effect; and the coolness which had hitherto been only suspected, was now visibly manifested in a disjunction that assumed no disguise. Into a subject of so delicate a nature, it is disagreeable to enter; and were it not for the odious mass of ca-

lumny which malice invented, and party propagated on that occasion, against the most spotless character in the kingdom, the whole should have been passed over in silence. But the laws of biography would not be observed, nor the ends of justice answered, by a forbearance which has already, perhaps, been carried to the excess of liberality. There is a line beyond which moderation cannot go without ceasing to be a virtue; and however commendable it may be to endure obloquy in patience, there can be no alternative when integrity is to be justified. What Johnson has observed in his account of Addison is peculiarly applicable in this place. "The necessity of complying with times, and of sparing persons, is the great impediment of biography. History may be formed from permanent monuments and records; but lives can only be written from personal knowledge, which is growing every day less, and in a short time is lost for ever. What is known can seldom be immediately told; and when it might be told, it is no longer known. The delicate features of the mind, the nice discriminations of character, and the minute peculiarities of conduct, are soon obliterated; and it is surely better that caprice, obstinacy, frolic, and folly, however they might delight in the description, should be silently forgotten, than that by wanton merriment and unseasonable detection, a pang should be given to a widow, a daughter, a brother, or a friend. As

the process of these narratives is now bringing me among my contemporaries, I begin to feel myself walking upon ashes, under which the fire is not extinguished, and coming to the time of which it will be proper rather to say nothing that is false, than all that is true."

Scarcely was the hymeneal torch lighted than its flame went out almost before the altar, and within a few days it might have been seen that two minds more discordant worldly policy never linked together. The moral atmosphere of the British court had for above thirty years been so distinguished by its purity, as to awe even libertines into decorousness of behaviour, and propriety of speech. Whatever, therefore, had a tendency to injure such a state, could not fail to create uneasiness in those who were most immediately interested in preserving its high character uncontaminated. Though much must be allowed for errors to which superior rank is liable, there can be no excuse for voluntary degradation, or levities, that are destitute of the apology of youth. To specify these would be needless, since the lapse of years has only served to open the eyes of the incredulous, and to confound the impudence of faction, by an exposition which ought to make the people ashamed of their infatuation, and party zealots blush for their violence. Perhaps, however, the time is yet to come when prejudices shall be wholly cleared away, and full justice ren-

dered to those who have hitherto long suffered by the grossest misrepresentation.

Immediately after the christening of the young princess, a negociation was carried on through the medium of Lord Cholmondeley for an amicable separation of the parents; and before the end of April the terms were adjusted without demur or reproach. But though the settlement was conducted with all possible respect and privacy, and with every appearance of reciprocal candour, some how or another, that double engine of extensive good and indefinite mischief—the daily press, quickly became the vehicle of the most malevolent reports, calculated to inflame the public mind, and to destroy the peace of the royal family.

Mysterious hints were thus thrown out to excite commiseration for a helpless stranger, the victim of a dark but powerful conspiracy; and at length the organ of scandal ventured to insinuate that the most exalted female in the kingdom had descended to unworthy acts, in order to get possession of the foreign letters of her daughter-in-law. Whisperings of this sort find willing hearers, and forward reporters, the one with a ready appetency to swallow whatever tends to sharpen curiosity, and the others to gratify their malice or their vanity. Unfortunately it often happens, that the eagerness to refute calumny only serves to give it a wider circulation; and so it was in the present instance, for the com-

mendable feeling of Lord Jersey, under the foul charge covertly brought against his countess, of having betrayed the confidence reposed in her by the Princess of Wales, produced an epistolary discussion, in which every thing was satisfactorily explained, but the only point that required explanation.

It was said that in the preceding summer a packet of letters intended to go abroad was entrusted to the care of Lady Jersey at Brighton, but that the same never reached its intended destination After the lapse of some weeks, inquiry was made, when on the part of the lady it appeared that the packet had not been committed to her charge, but to another person, who sent it by the coach. Thus far the case was simple enough, but how, or whether the parcel was lost became the question, to which no solution ever was found, though a very natural one might easily have been obtained had a discovery been intended. But the indifference with which the supposed loss was at first treated where it should have been most sensibly felt, had a very suspicious look, and certainly it but ill agreed with the importance afterwards attached to the circumstance. In the one instance it had the appearance of affectation, while in the other it bore all the characteristics of design. That the whole, indeed, was an artifice, is but too palpable, for the very surmise that the packet had been fraudulently arrested

in its transit indicated a disposition to form the worst conclusions without data, or the shadow of evidence, and consequently a mind capable enough of devising the scheme on which the base accusation was founded. The communication also of the circumstance to the world through the daily prints plainly shewed the dramatic character of the business, and the object it was intended to answer. From what source the information came could not well be mistaken, and therefore this eagerness to excite curiosity at the expense of private feelings, not only marked a spirit ready to imagine evil things, but one delighting in scattering firebrands of the most deadly tendency, without caring for the consequences. The Queen was not unapprised of these attempts to injure her in the public opinion, and to sow discord in her family; but with a fortitude, beyond all praise, she maintained a perfect equanimity and an absolute silence under the most scandalous imputations. This was neither apathy nor pride, but affection and prudence. She felt for those who were most dear to her; and in a tender concern for their tranquillity she avoided discussion and suppressed resentment.

CHAPTER XIX.

Death of Madame Schwellenbergen.—Her Character.—History of the Princess Augusta-Caroline of Brunswick.—Arrival of the Prince of Wirtemberg.—His Marriage with the Princess Royal.—Her Majesty's Fête on that Occasion.—City Address.—Affecting Separation.—Procession to St. Paul's on the Thanksgiving Day.—Death of the young Prince of Orange.—Royal Entertainments.—A Review in Hyde Park.—Visit to Lord Romney.

THE death of Madame Schwellenbergen, which happened suddenly on the evening of the seventh of March, 1797, was a severe shock to the Queen, from whom she had never lived apart for the space of fifty years, having been Her Majesty's attendant at Mirow, her companion at Strelitz, and her most confidential servant, as mistress of the robes, ever since her arrival in England.

She was a well-educated and highly accomplished woman, extremely courteous in her manner, much respected by all the domestics of the royal household, and devotedly attached to the illustrious family with whom she lived, who, in their turn, entertained for her the sincerest affection. Madame Schwellenbergen had been, however, most cruelly and wantonly held up to public ridicule by a pro-

fligate wit, whose delight lay in ribaldry, as a woman of a sordid disposition, than which nothing could be more opposite to her real character; for she was ever ready to oblige all who applied to her for assistance; and though, like her royal mistress, she chose to do good by stealth, her charities were very extensive. She had several pensioners who subsisted almost entirely upon her bounty, and all her interest with the Queen was exerted on the purest principle of disinterested benevolence. The partiality which Her Majesty had for this good lady was perfectly natural, and highly commendable; for it resulted from a long experience of her excellent qualities and tried integrity. Soon after her settlement in the English Court, indeed, she was viewed with envy by some of the ladies in waiting, who affected to look disdainfully upon her, which induced the Queen to pay her particular distinctions; and in a little time these jealousies were wholly removed by the prudent conduct and liberality of the person who had been the object of them. Madame Schwellenbergen was of a most cheerful temper; and even in her declining years, when afflicted by rheumatic and spasmodic complaints, she preserved her hilarity of spirits, and fondness for the sociable amusement of the card-table, in seating herself at which she fell back, without any previous appearance of illness, and instantly expired. This melancholy event happened

at Buckingham House, where their Majesties were then making arrangements for a festival, to which, however, they had but little inclination; and, of course, such an awful occurrence as the present could not fail to increase the depression of their spirits. At the beginning of the year, Frederic-William, the Hereditary Prince of Wirtemberg Stutgardt, made a formal offer of marriage to Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal of Great Britain. In point of rank, no reasonable objection could be made to his serene highness, but there were circumstances in his history which rendered this application a very serious concern to the august parents of the princess. The King and Queen so tenderly loved all their children, that no inducement of mere policy could have tempted them to consent to any union, however elevated it might be, that did not appear likely to prove happy. The hereditary prince had been now an avowed widower near nine years; but though the fact of his being so admitted of no doubt, there was still a mystery hanging upon it of a very romantic description, and one that in some degree affected his reputation. His first wife was the eldest daughter of the Duke of Brunswick Wolfenbuttle, who fell at Auerstadt, to whom he was married in the year 1780, when that princess was sixteen, and himself about twenty-six. Some years after this alliance the prince entered into the Russian service, his

sister being married to the heir-apparent of that empire. On going to Petersburgh, he took his wife and three children with him; and the princess being then in the flower of her youth, of a lively disposition, and fascinating manners, soon became a favourite with the Empress Catherine, whose court and company were far from being favourable to female morals. Into that vortex of dissipation, however, did the prince imprudently draw his wife, and there leave her when he made his campaign against the Turks; so that, in fact, he had no one to blame but himself, when, on his return, he found her principles contaminated, and her conduct the subject of general observation. In this situation the prince wrote to her father the Duke of Brunswick, informing him of his daughter's behaviour, and requesting his advice how to act under such circumstances. The result of this correspondence was a resolution that she should be removed out of Russia; and the prince accordingly demanded leave of the empress to quit her dominions with his family. Catherine readily allowed the prince the permission he requested, as far as related to himself and his children, but refused to allow the princess to return to Germany. No remonstrances could induce the autocratrix to recede from her determination, and the prince, with his sons and daughter, quitted the Russian territories for Wirtemberg. About a fortnight after their departure, the princess

was sent by an imperial order to the Castle of Lhorde, about two hundred miles from Petersburgh, having been first deprived of all her German attendants; and before the expiration of two years the prince received a letter from the empress, informing him of the death of his wife, similar information being sent also to the duke her father. Thus terminates the history of the unfortunate Augusta-Caroline, though, as is always the case in such dark transactions, there were not wanting sceptics who called in question the veracity of the empress, and would not believe the account which she gave of the death of the princess. Many persons in Germany tenaciously maintained that she was still living in a state of confinement, or an exile in Siberia; and this was the constant opinion of the late Duchess of Brunswick, her mother, although her husband and brother were satisfied of the contrary.

The conduct of Catherine in this instance is difficult to be accounted for; since, if, as is natural to suppose, she was afraid that the princess would suffer the vengeance of her offended relatives, and therefore caused her to be detained out of regard to her safety, this concern for a favourite is hardly to be reconciled with her subsequent treatment. The Princess of Wirtemberg could not have endured more severity from her family than what she experienced from her pre ended friend and protector;

and the most probable conclusion then is, that the empress, though far enough from concealing her habits, was unwilling to have the particulars of them disclosed in the German courts; on which account, and being conscious that the Princess of Wirtemberg knew too much of her secret history, she took the resolution of acting in this arbitrary manner. Such is that amity, which, having no other bond than the reciprocity of licentious propensities, is liable to be converted into jealousy and hatred, either by the caprice of new attachments, or through the fear of detection.

The cloud of obscurity that enveloped the catastrophe of this princess naturally excited much curiosity, and numerous conjectures, some of which were extremely harsh and unfavourable to her husband, who was even suspected of having contributed to the severity with which she was treated. This surmise was certainly unjust; but there were other circumstances connected with the history, that could not be so easily cleared up; and, as is usual in such cases, the irregularities of the sufferer were attempted to be palliated by recrimination.

When, therefore, the hereditary prince made an offer of his hand to the Princess-Royal of England, His Majesty was very much affected, and more so on perceiving that the overture met with a favourable reception on the part of his daughter. The King having before his eyes the tragical narrative

of his unfortunate relative, as far as it was known, felt an extreme repugnance to the proffered alliance, nor was the Queen less averse to it; but their joint remonstrances were of no avail, nor could even the marvellous fate of her cousin deter the princess from giving an assent to the proposal. Her royal father, however, deemed it necessary to make a very close inquiry into the particulars that have been just detailed, before he gave his final answer; and having ascertained the fact of the death of the Princess of Wirtemberg in Russia, his consent was no longer withheld.

Matters being thus far settled, and her royal highness remaining in the same state of mind, the prince left Wirtemberg at the end of March; and on the fifteenth of April arrived in London, where he was waited upon by several persons of distinction; and the same evening he was introduced to their majesties and his intended bride.

The marriage, however, did not take place till a month afterwards, and in the mean time the King conversed much with his daughter on the subject, offering, if her mind should alter before the solemnization of the ceremony, to break off the engagement, and take all the responsibility upon himself. Such was the paternal tenderness of one, who in no instance was known to have ever violated the slightest promise that he had made; but in the present instance, feeling that his engagement was

purely conditional, His Majesty hesitated, and waited till the last moment for the final decision of the princess, when finding that her determination was irrevocably fixed, he said no more; and the union took place with circumstances of great pomp at the Chapel Royal in the afternoon of the eighteenth of May. The service was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, with the assistance of his Grace of York, His Majesty giving away the bride; in doing which the whole audience observed how greatly he was agitated, while the Queen and the other princesses appeared overpowered with sorrow. When the religious service in the chapel was concluded, Her Majesty held a drawing-room, which was numerously attended; and on breaking up, the whole of the royal family, with the Prince and Princess of Wirtemberg, left town for Windsor Lodge.

It should here be stated, that the reluctance of the King to this marriage was increased by another circumstance, which pressed very heavily upon his mind; and this was the fear that the example of the reigning duke, who had turned Roman Catholic, might be followed in time by his son, the consequences of which His Majesty dreaded, as affecting his daughter. Without wounding the feelings of his highness on this delicate subject, our excellent monarch had some conversation with the prince on religious topics, and it afforded him considerable

relief to find that, as far as appearances could go, there was no danger of his apostasy.

On the twenty-third of the same month, Her Majesty gave a splendid fête, in honour of the marriage, at Frogmore, which seat was now become her favourite place of retirement; and this was the second grand entertainment held here since its completion, the first being on her own birth-day two years before the present occasion.

At the drawing-room, two days afterwards, addresses were presented by the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London; that to the Queen containing the following well-timed and merited compliment, in congratulating Her Majesty on the marriage of her daughter.

"The numerous and endearing virtues, native in her royal mind, and cultivated with such exemplary assiduity by the brilliant and eminent conduct of her royal mother, form at once a subject of exultation and regret, even on this joyful occasion; of exultation, as we are satisfied that the dignity of her high birth is proudly equalled by her transcendently amiable qualities, which we have long admired and revered; and of regret, as by this promising source of connubial felicity, the just reward of these qualities, the fair daughters of Britain will be deprived of contemplating, in the highest rank, one of the most conspicuous models of maiden excellence. We earnestly hope, Madam,

that an union of such exalted promise may be crowned with every prosperity to the illustrious pair that a mother's most sanguine wishes can form; and that the rest of your majesty's fair descendants may be heiresses to blessings commensurate to the exalted virtues with which they are endowed."

To these gallant expressions, Her Majesty made the following reply:

"I return you my thanks for this very dutiful and loyal address of congratulation on the marriage of the Princess-Royal with the Hereditary Prince of Wirtemberg; and for those sentiments, so very favourable to myself, with which it is accompanied."

On Friday the second of June, their royal and serene highnesses quitted St. James's Palace for Harwich, escorted by a party of light dragoons. The princess was dressed in a blue riding-habit, with the star of the Russian order of St. Catherine at her breast. She endeavoured to appear cheerful; but the faltering accents with which she bade her attendants and the surrounding multitude farewell spoke her agitated feelings. None of the royal family were present, as they had all taken leave the preceding night at Buckingham House, when the scene was most affecting. Her Majesty and the princesses were bathed in tears, and her royal highness hung upon the neck of her father, overwhelmed with grief. At length, the prince, her

husband, took her hand, and persuaded her to go with him, supporting her to the coach, whither they were followed by the King to take a last farewell of his beloved daughter; but his feelings were so much overpowered, that he could not even articulate the word adieu. This, considering the affectionate manner in which the family had uniformly lived together, was not to be wondered; for what could be more distressing than a separation which approximated the nearest to the last awful dissolution of the tender ties of nature? In private life the settlement of children by approved alliances contributes to cheer the hearts of parents, and to diffuse a brightness over their declining years, in the pleasing prospect of sharing the happiness of those they love; but here, on the contrary, such is the heavy tax imposed upon royalty, the nuptial festivities were mixed and shaded, as it were, with funereal gloom; since to their majesties this parting from a child, who had never lived out of their presence, even for a single day, was in all probability a parting for ever.

The year closed, however, with a brilliancy which could not have been augurised in the early part of it; and His Majesty, with his wonted piety, resolved to give a public expression of gratitude for the signal blessings which the nation had received. Accordingly, the nineteenth of December was appointed to be observed as a day of general thanks-

giving for our great naval victories; and a grand procession to St. Paul's Cathedral, by the royal family and the two houses of parliament, then took place. The morning was remarkably fine, and the scene had an impressive effect, particularly in the choir of the church, on entering which their majesties were seated under a crimson canopy of state, the King on the right and the Queen on the left, with the princesses formed in a circle by her side. At the end of the first lesson a naval procession commenced, to choral music, from the body of the church to the choir, when the British admirals advanced with the colours taken in the three great victories gained by Lords Howe, St. Vincent, and Duncan. These flags were received from the gallant officers by the dean and chapter, who ranged them on both sides the altar in consecrated order; after which, a discourse was preached by the Bishop of Lincoln; and the service being concluded, the procession returned in greater state than it entered. Their majesties were preceded by the male branches of the family, the foreign ambassadors, &c., the Bishop of London being on the right hand of the King, and the Bishop of Lincoln on his left. The sword of state was borne by Earl Spencer, and that of the city by the lord mayor. The King appeared in blue and gold, the Queen in mazarine blue with a diamond head-dress: the princesses in the same coloured vests, with

chained head-dresses of gold and white feathers. The ceremony continued till half past one, when their majesties returned in their coach of state to Buckingham House. No accident occurred to mar the splendour of the day, which terminated with great credit to all who had the direction of the several arrangements.

The following year glided smoothly away without any thing particularly remarkable in regard to the royal family, who spent the conclusion of the summer, as usual, at Weymouth, where the King and the princesses bathed in the sea regularly every morning, when the weather permitted. While at this gay place of resort, the news arrived of the splendid victory gained by Admiral Nelson over the French fleet on the coast of Egypt, which intelligence increased the gladness occasioned by the presence of royalty, and contributed to furnish additional festivities, in which their majesties cheerfully participated.

Of their readiness to enter into the sympathetic feelings of others, as well for sorrow as for joy, an instance occurred at the end of January, 1799, when the King, in reading a foreign newspaper at Buckingham House, was suddenly struck with a paragraph mentioning the death of the second son of the Stadtholder, at Venice, where, in the capacity of an Austrian officer, he fell a victim to the

punctual discharge of his duty, in attending the military hospital, which, at that time, was infected by a contagious fever.

Their majesties were very much shocked at this melancholy intelligence; and the Queen being fearful of its effects upon the Princess of Orange, immediately sent off a letter by a special messenger, to Hampton Court, requesting her company for a few days on some particular concerns. Without suspecting any thing of her misfortune, the princess hastened to town, and thus, by the address of the Queen, she was kept ignorant of the loss which she had sustained, till the arrival of letters from Venice, putting it beyond doubt the sad news was imparted to her by gentler degrees, whereby her mind was enabled to bear what otherwise might have been attended with fatal consequences.

The remainder of this year had a more cheerful aspect; and though the pomp and parade of war prevailed, the military spectacles were so mixed with festivities as to present every where the ideas of security and gaiety, rather than of alarm and apprehension.

Two entertainments given by Her Majesty were of a domestic description, and tended in the renovation of joy to create expectations which were far from being realized. The first was a private fête at Frogmore, on the eighth of March, in grateful commemoration of the recovery of the Princess Amelia,

whose life had been even despaired of for some time. This, therefore, was a scene of unmixed gladness, which could hardly be said of the other, for though in some respects it might have been termed a feast of conciliation, it was more a sacrifice to duty than affection. The King having long suffered much anxiety about the separation of the Prince and Princess of Wales, with a true paternal sensibility, wished to see the appearance, at least, of restored harmony in his family. To gratify his desire, it was agreed that the princess should be recalled to court, on the ensuing birth-day; previous to which, and to give a greater eclat to the circumstance, Her Majesty, on the evening of the sixteenth of May, had a grand ball and supper at her palace. About two hundred persons, the flower of the nobility, assembled round their amiable sovereign on this occasion; and it was grateful to see the blaze of royalty eclipsing the lustre of dress and the sparkling of diamonds. The company began to meet about eight, and at half-past nine the grand saloon was opened for dancing, which commenced with Scotch reels, the two first by the Duke of Kent and the Princess of Wales. At one the supper rooms were opened, when twelve tables, covered with a profusion of the choicest delicacies of the season, were displayed to view. This entertainment being finished, the nobility again resumed dancing; and at four the company departed.

Never, perhaps, during his long reign, did the King witness a prouder day, or one more delightful, on all accounts, to his patriotic heart, than on the anniversary of his birth this year, when he reviewed the various associations of volunteers in Hyde Park. These loyal troops assembled early in the morning, and on the appearance of His Majesty precisely at nine o'clock, a royal salute was fired by the artillery company. The sovereign then proceeded slowly along the line, and though it rained heavily all the time, he continued uncovered during the review; after which, the several corps, with the surrounding multitudes, made the air resound with acclamations. Her Majesty and the princesses, accompanied by the Countess of Harrington and Lady Mary Stanhope, viewed this sublime spectacle from the house of Lady Holdernesse in Park Lane, and that of Lord Cathcart, where they partook of refreshments. The sight very much affected them; and even the monarch himself, as he surveyed this faithful cordon of subjects, walling him round as it were in lofty defiance of all his foes, could not refrain from expressing his feelings by a tear—but then it was the tear of gratitude.

The Queen afterwards held a drawing-room, which was one of the most splendid and crowded that had been witnessed for several years.

During the procession of the mail coaches in the

front of the palace, the royal family appeared in the windows, and were repeatedly greeted by the populace; but what gave the most touching effect to the scene, was the Prince of Wales holding up his child to view the shew, and then delivering the young princess into the arms of her royal grandfather.

On the twenty-first of the same month, His Majesty set out on a circuit in and about the metropolis to inspect the different corps of volunteers, and about noon, joined the Queen and princesses at the house of the Lord Chancellor Loughborough, in Russell Square, where an elegant collation was provided; after partaking of which, His Majesty again mounted his charger, and proceeded to inspect the corps assembled in the front of the Foundling Hospital. While the active monarch was thus engaged, Her Majesty and daughters went into that noble edifice, with which they were extremely pleased, and particularly the performance of the children, who greeted them in the chapel with the air of "God save the King."

Another military spectacle, on a scale of splendid magnificence in this season of loyalty, was exhibited by the Earl of Romney, at his seat near Maidstone, where, on the first of August, the sovereign and his family attended to witness a grand review of the volunteers in that part of Kent. The announcement of this grand entertainment drew to-

gether thousands of eager spectators, not only from the surrounding towns and villages, but from places very remote. During the whole of the preceding day Maidstone was in a bustle, which increased as the evening came on; and when night fell, no accommodation of any sort could be obtained for man or horse.

Happy were those who could squeeze themselves into a corner of the meanest alehouse; but the far greater number of strangers were obliged to bivouack with their cattle in the fields, lanes, and streets.

To give peculiar pomp to the volunteers, they marched into the town with drums beating and colours flying, accompanied by bands of music.

The royal standard was hoisted on the church, and flags were displayed from many of the houses. During the afternoon, the road to Moat Park, Lord Romney's seat, about a mile from Maidstone, was thronged with people going to see the preparations making for the reception of their majesties. A pavilion was erected on a rising part of the lawn, at the back of the house, for the royal family to dine in, and another nearly adjoining for the attendant nobility. The former was decorated with festoons of flowers, and the ground was covered with green baize. Ninety-one tables were placed near the spot in two divisions, for the volunteers, upon which cloths were laid, and knives and forks placed for near six thousand persons.

The whole length of these tables amounted to thirteen thousand, three hundred, and thirty-three yards, or nearly seven miles and a half, and the value of the wood-work exceeded fifteen hundred pounds.

Though the royal family left Kew as early as five in the morning, it was near twelve before they arrived at Lord Romney's, having stopped to breakfast with Lord Camden, and been otherwise delayed by the excessive badness of the roads.

The King came to the ground on his charger amidst a heavy shower of rain, and Her Majesty, with the princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, alighted at the tent prepared for their reception, into which the Queen invited as many ladies as it would possibly contain. As the volunteers and all the gentlemen present wore boughs of oak in their hats, the royal family wished to decorate themselves with some of the same, which were immediately brought, and the Queen and princesses put them in their caps and in their bosoms.

After the review, a signal gun announced dinner to the associations, and this sight, which for novelty equalled all the rest, was viewed with admiration by the august visitors, who sat down to a sumptuous entertainment in the pavilion, while the nobility did the same in a tent adjoining. The royal party consisted of the King and Queen, the two princesses, the Dukes of York, Cumberland, and Gloucester, the Stadtholder, and the Countess Harring-

ton as lady in waiting. They were attended during dinner by Lord Romney, his son, and the honourable Misses Marsham, the three daughters of his lordship. The volunteers having finished their dinner, His Majesty's health was drank to martial music, by upwards of six thousand men, all standing uncovered. Then followed some other loyal toasts; after which some of the officers came up before the royal tent and sang "God save the King." About half-past five the several companies left the tables, got under arms, and marched off in different directions: on which, the royal family returned to the house, where they took coffee, and at six o'clock set off for town. To commemorate the spot where this distinction was conferred on the men of Kent, a subscription was entered into by the volunteers, for the erection of a handsome pavilion of stone, the cupola of which is supported by nine doric pillars, and the whole building is formed after the model of the Temple of the Sibyls at Tivoli, near Rome, and that of Minerva at Athens.

CHAPTER XX.

Two Attempts upon the King's Life.—Royal Fortitude.—Military Fête at Hatfield.—Splendid Entertainment at Frogmore.—Excursion to Weymouth.—Anecdote of an American Quaker.—Visit to the Island of Portland.—Return to Windsor.—Christmas Festivity.

He that denies a particular providence in human affairs will not easily be convinced by facts of an extraordinary occurrence, even though they may shake his scepticism, because he has a word of convenient ambiguity, ever ready to be applied in all those cases which are out of the common course of events. And yet it will sometimes happen, when nothing short of incorrigible infidelity can ascribe that to chance which evidently carries with it the marks of divine interposition. The truth of this was remarkably evinced in the marvellous preservation of the King twice in one day, when in both instances there was not only a deliberate aim to take away his life, but that too in situations extremely favourable to the diabolical purpose.

On the morning of the fifteenth of May, 1800, while His Majesty was inspecting the evolutions of the grenadier guards in Hyde Park, during the

firings a ball-cartridge was discharged, which passed very near his person, and penetrated through both thighs of a young gentleman belonging to one of the public offices, who happened to stand within a few yards of the King.

The same evening the royal family went to Drury Lane Theatre, and the King had scarcely entered the state box, when two slugs were fired directly at him from the pit. Her Majesty and the princesses were at that moment stepping into the box; but the King, apprehensive of the effect of the alarm upon their minds, waved his hand, and said, "keep back; they are firing squibs for diversion." Such was the admirable presence of mind of our venerable sovereign, and such was his affectionate tenderness, in an instant, when, for any thing he knew, more firearms were about to be discharged from the same quarter, and with the same nefarious object. Her Majesty, however, at length came forward, much agitated, followed by her daughters trembling with anxiety; and on finding from the uproar that something of serious import had occurred, they all joined in urging the King to return home, but, with his wonted fortitude, he replied, "No; sit down and be calm, for there is no danger; we will stay and see the entertainment out." They did so, and the audience manifested by reiterated plaudits their sense of this firmness, and their indignation against the assassin. The unhappy man proved, upon in-

dubitable evidence, to be a lunatic; but considering the position in which he had planted himself, and the experience as a soldier which he possessed, it was certainly little short of miraculous that one of the balls had not a fatal effect. In both these attempts the deadly design was manifest, and conducted in each with the eye of practice; the escape, therefore, of the royal person under such peculiar circumstances, cannot be regarded as fortuitous, without supposing that the whole moral race are left destitute of government and protection, the slaves of fate, or the sport of accident.

When the royal party returned to Buckingham House, and His Majesty was about to retire to rest, he took a cheerful leave of his family, and said, "I hope and pray that the poor creature who has committed the rash assault upon me may enjoy as sound a repose as I trust that I shall this night."

In none of the various assaults made upon him did the King ever betray any thing like resentment against the unfortunate or misguided beings, who, from phrenzy or faction, presumed to commit acts of violence upon his person; nor could those repeated outrages induce him to adopt any precautions for his security. On the contrary, he rode and walked as usual, sometimes without any attendant, and, at the most, with only one or two servants. A nobleman, shortly after the serious attack in the playhouse, took upon him to remonstrate with His

Majesty upon this exposure of his person, when the King answered, that the constant presence of a guard would be an irksome restraint which he could not endure, especially as indicating an unreasonable jealousy of his subjects, of whose loyalty and affection he entertained not the smallest doubt. "I know," said His Majesty, "that any man who chooses to sacrifice his own life may easily take away mine; but I only hope that if any one attempts such an act, he will do it promptly, without any circumstances of barbarity."

The twelfth of June, this year, was distinguished by one of those displays of loyalty which happily were not unfrequent at this period, and which brought to recollection the days of old, when the heads of the baronial houses rallied their dependants round the royal standard. This revival of the ancient spirit of hospitality and chivalry gave energy to patriotism, and drove faction to the den of hypocrisy.

Among the nobility who took a leading part in the national cause at this eventful period, the Marquis of Salisbury appeared with the characteristic zeal of his illustrious lineage. For near a month his lordship's magnificent mansion was the seat of busy preparations, to receive the royal family, at the grand review of the Hertford volunteers in Hatfield Park. In this business above one hundred servants and labourers were employed, under the per-

sonal inspection of the marquis, who was indefatigable in his exertions to arrange the tents for the accommodation of all the spectators. In the neighbouring inns also all was bustle and confusion. The cellars and larders were emptied of their liquors and provisions, which were transferred to booths erected in the park, and scattered among the distant clumps of trees, commanding a view of the military spectacle. Many of the visitors came on the preceding evening, but the gates of the park were not thrown open for carriages till seven in the morning, when several waggons entered, decorated with oak boughs, and filled with ladies dressed in white. At nine their majesties, in a chariot with four horses, entered through the principal lodge at the southern extremity of the park, having been only one hour and three quarters on their journey. Next followed a carriage in which were the Princesses Augusta, Elizabeth, and Amelia. Then came the Prince and Princess of Orange, and the Duke of York. In a quarter of an hour after his arrival, the King mounted his horse, and was followed by the Queen and three princesses in an open landau; to which succeeded another, containing the Princess Mary, Princess of Orange, Countess of Harcourt, and the Ladies Georgina and Emily Cecil. The Prince of Orange was in his own coach. These carriages drove to the Queen's marquee, which was on a rising ground, commanding a view of the whole

line. It was boarded with oak in the most finished style, and covered with a beautiful Brussels carpet. Projected pannels of mahogany, with sash-doors, commanded a full view of the eastern and western front. Adjoining to this tent were two others, one for the ministers of state, and the other for the ladies. An elegant breakfast was laid for their majesties with a service of gold in the summer dining-room.

After the review the volunteers and their officers sat down to a substantial dinner in the park, as the royal guests did to one of the most sumptuous description in King James's room, in Hatfield House. At the head of the table sat their Majesties; on the right of the King were the Duke of Gloucester, the Prince of Orange, the Prince of Wales, and the Dukes of York and Cumberland. On the Queen's side were, the Princess of Orange, the Princesses Augusta, Elizabeth, Mary, and Amelia. At the lower end sat the Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury, the Countesses of Harrington and Chesterfield, with Ladies Georgina and Emily Cecil.

Among the principal ornaments of the room were two pictures, one a whole length of the King, with these words in gold letters on a wreath—"Preserved of God, beloved of his people!" The other was of Her Majesty, having this motto—"Favoured of heaven, the glory of her sex!"

The cabinet-ministers and general officers of state

were entertained in another room. When the volunteers had dined, they all drank His Majesty's health, with three cheers, and afterwards sang "God save the King" in chorus. At half past four the royal family set off in their carriages amidst loud acclamations, the sound of martial music from the bands, and the general salute of the guns. Almost all the people of distinction in the country were assembled on this occasion; and the concourse, including the different military bodies, could not be less than fifty thousand persons.

On the fourteenth of the following month the Queen gave an entertainment of a new character in Frogmore Gardens, the management of which was entirely under the direction of the Princess Elizabeth. About two o'clock the royal family repaired from Windsor Lodge in their carriages to the house, consisting of their majesties, the five princesses, the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of York, the Dukes of Clarence and Cumberland, and the Prince and Princess of Orange; after whom came the company who were invited to dinner. The royal party dined in the temporary room; and for the accommodation of the nobility, three tents adjoining to this apartment were pitched in a direct line, so that their majesties had a complete view of the whole assembly. The dinner, consisting of every delicacy of the season, was served up in great style; and during the repast the band of the Staf-

ford militia played several martial airs. As soon as dinner was over, the Princess Elizabeth conducted her royal parents and the visitors to the grotto, where some of the principal vocal performers entertained them with glees and songs. The company then proceeded across the lawn to another part of the gardens, where a group, in the character of gypsies, made their appearance; and on the approach of their majesties, Mrs. Mills, who personated the queen of the vagrant tribe, advanced from behind a thicket, leading an ass bearing two children, and sang a gypsey song; after which she delivered her poetical destinies of good fortune to the several members of the royal family. The King and the royal dukes took great notice of the two children placed on the ass, and His Majesty desired that they might be led round for the Queen to see them, as they belonged to two of the soldiers' wives. Mrs. Mills and her gypsey throng having concluded their part with a dance, retreated into the thicket; after which the princess led the way to a space of ground near what is called the Hermit's Cell, where a stage was erected, on which one Du Crow, termed the Flemish Hercules, exhibited his wonderful performances on the slack wire, and afterwards his extraordinary powers of strength, such as balancing on his chin three large coach-wheels, also a ladder, to which were affixed two chairs with two children on them, and bearing

at the same time on his hands and feet a table in the form of a pyramid, with eight persons on its surface.

When these exploits were over, the company walked towards the canal, where a large boat, having the royal standard flying, was placed on the stocks, to represent the Royal Sovereign ready for launching. Here Mrs. Mills appeared in the dress of a sailor, while Mr. Fawcett, in that of the St. James's association, delivered a loyal address. On the return of their majesties to the lawn in front of the grotto, six Hungarian hussars performed the peculiar dances of their country; after which, Fawcett entertained the company with a humorous song, on the conclusion of which the company repaired to the Princess Elizabeth's Thatched Barn. In this beautiful arbour, which was fitted up for a ball-room, seats were erected for the accommodation of six hundred of the nobility, who were invited by tickets from Her Majesty, none others being admitted. The entrance consisted of arched colonnades of crystal lamps; the room was decorated with flowers, and lighted up with chandeliers in the form of a bee-hive, the upper part suspended by a tassel resembling ears of corn. The ball lasted till twelve o'clock, when their majesties returned to Windsor; and the rest of the company, after partaking of a cold collation, soon followed.

At the end of the month the royal family made

their annual visit to Weymouth, where they remained till the beginning of October, enjoying the benefits of bathing, and mingling in the amusements of the numerous visitors who were attracted by the presence of majesty to that gay and pleasant watering-place. Here, on the second day of their arrival, they were met on the Esplanade by some quakers, who accosted His Majesty, and requested leave to introduce a young member of their society from America, and who, they said, was extremely desirous of seeing the King. The good-natured monarch accordingly entered into conversation with the stranger, who then retired to a little distance, and taking off his hat, offered up a long prayer for the King of the little island, blessing providence for his late deliverance, and supplicating on his behalf a prolongation of years for the good of his people. The scene was interesting, and much affected the persons who witnessed it, particularly the Queen and her daughters.

Weymouth was never more thronged since it became a place of royal notice than at this season, and their majesties appeared to make it their study to render the residence there as pleasant to others as it was to themselves.

They regularly visited the rooms, seldom missed the theatre in the evening, and made frequent excursions on the water, there being constantly one or more vessels of war stationed in the roads during

their stay. The principal families in the neighbourhood received occasional calls, but quite in a friendly way; and they, in turn, were invited to the Queen's parties at the Lodge. At this time the Prince of Wales and his interesting child were at Weymouth, a circumstance which contributed very much to the general liveliness.

Among the various spots to which the royal curiosity was drawn in these periodical tours, the Isle of Portland came in for a considerable share of attention, on account of the shells, pebbles, and fossils, found in the sands and the cavities of the rocks. The children in consequence made it their business to search for these natural rarities, for which they were certain of a liberal compensation, whenever the Queen and princesses made their annual visit to the island.

At the beginning of October the royal family left the coast for Windsor, where Her Majesty kept the Christmas-day following in a very pleasing manner. Sixty poor families had a substantial dinner given them; and in the evening the children of the principal families in the neighbourhood were invited to an entertainment at the Lodge. Here, among other amusing objects for the gratification of the juvenile visitors, in the middle of the room stood an immense tub with a yew-tree placed in it, from the branches of which hung bunches of sweetmeats, almonds, and raisins, in papers, fruits, and toys,

most tastefully arranged, and the whole illuminated by small wax candles. After the company had walked round and admired the tree, each child obtained a portion of the sweets which it bore, together with a toy, and then all returned home quite delighted.

CHAPTER XXI.

Commencement of the Nineteenth Century.—King's Illness.—Relieved by a simple Remedy.—Royal Visits.—Weymouth.—Anecdote of the Queen.—Fête at Frogmore.—New Year, and Peace, 1802.—Celebration of the Queen's Birth-Day at Constantinople.—Christening of Lord Chesterfield's Daughter.—War renewed.—Installation of Knights of the Bath.—Military Reviews. Presentation of Colours.—Queen's Birth-Day, 1804.—Alarming State of the King's Health.—Recovery.—Tour to Weymouth.—Aquatic Amusements.—Splendid Entertainments.—Visit to Mr. Rose.—Royal Reconciliation.—Translation of Freylinghausen.

The commencement of the new century diffused cheerfulness over the country; and the anniversary return of the day appointed to be kept as Her Majesty's birth-day was celebrated in consequence with peculiar splendour, the performance of the ode for the new year being reserved till that great court festival. But pleasure and pain are nearly allied; and within a few weeks after this scene of gaiety, the royal family were greatly distressed by the alarming state of the King, whose illness threatened very serious consequences, particularly as none of the regular medicines administered could induce repose. In this emergency, when professional skill was baffled, the casual observation of Mr. Adding-

ton, now Lord Sidmouth, upon the virtue of a pillow of hops, was fortunately acted upon, and had the effect of relieving the royal sufferer from his malady. To this circumstance Mr. Addington was indebted for the jocular title of doctor, which, though bestowed in the spirit of party, he was well content to bear on an occasion so gratifying to his own feelings and those of his sovereign, whose sense of the benefit he had received was expressed by a friendly visit paid to that gentleman at Wimbledon, the day before the royal family left Kew for the coast.

On the twenty-ninth of June their majesties and the princesses went to Cuffnels, the seat of Mr. Rose, where they remained three days, and then embarked for Weymouth, which place they did not reach till twelve o'clock at night, owing to contrary winds; and when they landed, there were no persons in attendance to receive them at the pier or on the beach, so that they were obliged to walk without any escort to the lodge.

During the royal residence at Weymouth this season, the Queen gave, as usual, a splendid entertainment at Radipole, but on a more extended scale, under her own immediate direction and that of the Princess Elizabeth. Among the persons employed in the decorations was the wife of Mr. William Penley, one of the performers belonging to the Theatre at Weymouth; and while she was thus

engaged, her little boy attracted the particular notice of the Queen, who was so pleased with the liveliness of his parts, that she sent him to an eminent school at Sherborne, where he remained solely at her charge till he had completed his seventeenth year, when a commission in the army was bestowed upon him, with three hundred guineas for an outfit.

Their majesties returned from this western excursion at the beginning of October, and closed the year with a brilliant entertainment at Frogmore, to which only a select party of the nobility and gentry in that neighbourhood were invited.

With the new year, 1802, came in the charm of peace, which spread a radiance over the celebration of the Queen's birth-day, and rendered the circle more gay and numerous than it had been for a considerable time. That annual festival, however, was commemorated at Constantinople in a manner more pleasing to the feelings of humanity, than in the formal sound of presentations and congratulatory compliments.

The Ottoman government having directed that a palace should be erected for the accommodation of the English ambassador, Lord Elgin, then our minister at that court, fixed upon this day for the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the intended building. The spectacle was grand; but what rendered it peculiarly and unspeakably touching, was the circumstance of the liberation

of one hundred and forty Christian slaves, who were presented to the ambassador by the capitan pacha, in honour of the Queen of England.

On the second of April their majesties and the Princess Elizabeth stood sponsors in person to the infant daughter of the Earl of Chesterfield, at his house in May Fair. The Dowager-Marchioness of Bath acted as chief nurse, and presented the child to the Queen, who delivered it into the hands of Dr. Sutton, Bishop of Norwich, giving it the name of Georgiana. After the ceremony, the Earl of Chesterfield, on his knee, presented a cup of caudle to the King on a gold waiter of great value, which had been given to his ancestor, the first Lord Stanhope, by the King of Spain, for services in that country, during the war of the succession.

The remainder of this year passed without any remarkable occurrences in the royal family, and the next had scarcely begun, before the hoarse note of preparation for war was heard, the formal declaration of which took place on the eighteenth of May. The very day afterwards a grand spectacle was exhibited in the installation of Knights of the Bath, at which the Duke of York presided as great master. This grand chivalric ceremony was viewed by Her Majesty and the princesses from a box lined with crimson, over Congreve's monument in the Abbey; and as the knights passed in procession, they halted to pay their obeisance, the whole of the com-

pany in the nave of the church standing up, which had a very fine effect.

The Queen and her daughters were all dressed in white, as were most of the ladies present. After the procession the royal party retired to the deanry, where an elegant entertainment was prepared for their refreshment.

The renewal of the war, though it portended an arduous struggle, so far from being attended with any damp of the national spirit, seemed to have the contrary effect of rousing the whole mass of population into energy. Of this, a striking proof was given in the alacrity with which the volunteers flew to arms; and a prouder day perhaps was hardly ever witnessed than at the end of October, when His Majesty reviewed these loyal troops in Hyde Park. On that occasion the scene was rendered peculiarly interesting, by the appearance of the French princes and several of their faithful adherents, in uniform, who joined in the royal train, no doubt with mingled emotions of anxiety, admiration, and gratitude. Her Majesty, with the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, followed the King in one open landau, as the Princesses Sophia and Mary did in another. The review lasted from about ten o'clock till half-past one, when the royal party, with the foreign princes and several officers, proceeded to Buckingham House, accompanied all the way by immense crowds of people, who, being

no longer restrained by the military, ran in all directions to catch a sight of their venerable sovereign. The air resounded with shouts; and His Majesty shewed the sense which he entertained of these expressions of loyalty, by repeatedly taking off his hat, and giving other signs of his grateful feelings. The whole number of persons, together with the volunteers, could not be less than two hundred thousand; and many came to town from a distance of above one hundred miles, purposely to have a sight of this splendid array. Two days afterwards, there was another review of the Westminster, Lambeth, and Surrey volunteers, which fell very little short of the former in grandeur and general effect.

On the fourth of January, 1804, a brilliant scene was displayed at Ranelagh, in the presentation of colours to the Queen's royal volunteers. About noon, the trumpet announced the arrival of the courtly party in three of His Majesty's carriages, followed by others belonging to different noblemen. The company having alighted, Lady Harrington was conducted to her box by the vice chamberlain, and followed by her attendants, exactly in the same manner as the Queen would have been. She was dressed in a black pelisse and a scarlet sash, with a velvet hat highly ornamented; and an antique necklace of great value, with a fine cameo of His Majesty, being a large and beautiful onyx, set as a me-

dallion, which was presented to her ladyship by the Queen, as a memorial of the event. The countess being seated, two pairs of colours were introduced, and placed on each side of the royal box. The King's colours of each regiment consisted of a plain union standard; but the regimental one, which was designed and executed by the Queen and princesses, was a superb piece of needle-work, the ground being a rich purple silk, having in the centre Her Majesty's arms, embroidered and surrounded with sprigs of variegated tints and figures. At the lower corners were the letters C. R. and under the armorial bearings the words "Queen's Royal Volunteers."

After prayers and a suitable discourse, the Countess of Harrington thus addressed the officers:

"Gentlemen,

"Her Majesty having been graciously pleased to confer upon me the honour of presenting to you these colours, I am anxious to express how highly I am flattered by this distinguished mark of the Queen's favour. At a time of all others the most awful, when our country is threatened with the unprovoked attack of a most implacable enemy, and when you have evinced your readiness to stand forward in the defence of every thing that is most dear to us all, what can be more gratifying or more honourable to you, than being peculiarly distinguished by Her Majesty, and receiving your colours from

her? Animated as your hearts must be in gratitude to the Queen, in addition to every other noble sentiment that has guided you from the moment of the first offer of your services, it would not only be superfluous, but presumptuous in me, to add any thing more upon the occasion than the expression of every fervent wish for your success in the event of the enemy carrying his threats into execution; confident that no power, however strenuously exerted, will ever wrest these colours from you, while there is yet left a man in your corps to defend them."

To this neat and energetic speech a suitable answer was returned by Lord Hobart, who expressed in behalf of the corps, which had thus been honoured, the most patriotic and grateful sentiments.

The festival commemorative of the Queen's birthday was observed this season with the usual demonstrations of respect. In the morning the whole family breakfasted together, according to custom on these occasions; but the King did not attend the drawing-room, owing to a severe attack of the rheumatism; in consequence of which, Her Majesty, instead of a ball, gave a concert in the evening at Buckingham House, to a numerous party of the nobility. The disorder with which the King was afflicted assumed such an alarming aspect by the middle of the following month, as to require the constant attendance of three physicians for some days, after which two others were called in, and

the public anxiety was excited to the utmost degree of distress by the unfavourable reports that were in circulation. By the end of the month, however, the violent symptoms were so far abated, that a prayer of thanksgiving was judiciously drawn up, and ordered to be read in churches, for the purpose of quieting the fears of the people; and, at length, the discontinuance of the official bulletins confirmed the hopes of the nation in the complete restoration of the King's health.

On the twenty-fourth of August, the royal family and attendants left the Queen's Lodge for Weymouth, proceeding by Binfield and Wokingham to the seat of Sir William Pitt, at Heckfield Heath, where they dined. Having taken coffee, they went on to Andover, and stopped for tea and supper at the Star and Garter. His Majesty appeared in excellent spirits, and handed the Queen out of the carriage with the greatest gallantry, cautioning her against the number of steps. During the short stay of the royal visitors, they became particularly attached to a beautiful infant about three months old, with whose charms the princesses were extremely delighted. About half-past ten o'clock, all the party, except the Duke of Cambridge, set off for Weymouth, which place they reached at five the next morning, when they immediately retired to rest, having travelled all night. His Majesty, however, rose soon after seven, and having taken break-

fast, walked on the Esplanade, then proceeded to inspect the stables, mounted his saddle-horse, and rode out till his usual hour of dinner. In the evening the whole town was illuminated; fire-works were let off on board the ships as well as on the Esplanade; the place was full of gaiety, and no lodgings could be obtained at any price. The renovated state of the King diffused joy among all classes; and they who had close and constant opportunities of beholding him and his happy family were enraptured with his condescension. In his walks he conversed with the farmer on agricultural affairs, with the soldier on his military duties, and with the sailor on the boasted preparations of the enemy. The last subject never failed to draw from him some pleasing remarks on the superiority of the navy; and one day, when going off to the yacht, an attendant in waiting, in delivering a musical instrument to a man belonging to the barge, told him to take care of it, on which the King turned round and said, "Oh! there is no occasion for that caution, every thing is safe in the hands of a British seaman."

On the third of September the royal family and a large company embarked for the Isle of Portland, famous for its quarries and romantic scenery. The barge had the royal standard in her stern, and an awning covered with beautiful silk, large enough to shade the whole party, but sufficiently open on the sides to give the numerous spectators in the sur-

rounding boats a complete view of their majesties as they passed. Great preparations had been making for several days before at Portland Castle, for the entertainment of the royal guests; and every delicacy of the season was conveyed over from the King's kitchen at Weymouth. A large platform was raised for the royal family to land upon at the beach, and the carriages and horses were taken over in the ferry-boat.

Soon after their landing, Her Majesty and the princesses, in two carriages, and the King with his suite on horseback, took a most delightful excursion almost round the island; and on their return to the castle, sat down to a sumptuous dinner, during which the inhabitants crowded from all parts to see their sovereign. Shortly after dinner, the whole party went on board the yacht, took several trips in the offing, and returned to Weymouth time enough for the theatre, which they rarely ever missed.

The ninth being the anniversary of the wedding of their majesties, the same was celebrated with a grand fête, under the direction of the Princess Elizabeth. The King appeared first at the rooms; and about two o'clock the Queen and the rest of the family arrived, with a numerous company of the nobility. The tables were set out in a style of the greatest elegance; and about three the dancing commenced. All the roads leading to Weymouth

were thronged with carriages, post-chaises, and every kind of conveyance, so great was the desire of the people to see the monarch.

The inhabitants of Weymouth were much amused by a succession of fêtes during the residence of the royal family on the coast this season; but the most curious of all these entertainments was an aquatic one, in honour of the birth-day of the Duchess of Wirtemberg, on the twenty-ninth of September; at which above two hundred and fifty persons were invited. The royal yachts were moored in the harbour for this purpose; and while their majesties, with the princes and princesses, dined on board one, a numerous party did the same on board the other; there being platforms laid, by which an easy communication was maintained between the two vessels. After dinner a Dutch fair was held, both in the yachts and on shore, marquees and booths being erected for the several dealers. The whole had a most lively appearance, and infinitely surpassed any of those ridiculous shews called masquerades.

On the tenth of October the royal family visited Lord Dorchester, at Milton Abbey, from whence they went the next day to view Stalbridge, the seat of the Earl of Uxbridge, but which had not been inhabited by that nobleman for a number of years. After inspecting this ancient and deserted place, the party returned to the abbey; but in going up a

very steep hill, two of the horses in a phæton got entangled together, which caused the carriage to overset; and the two princesses who were in it fell out, but happily without receiving any other injury than that of being greatly frightened. The royal family remained at Milton Abbey till the thirteenth, when they returned to Weymouth, His Majesty on horseback, and the Queen and princesses in carriages.

Early in the morning of the twenty-ninth of the same month, their majesties and family left Weymouth on a visit to Mr. Rose in Hampshire, previous to their return to Windsor. After breakfasting with Mr. Drax Grosvenor at Charborough, they proceeded to Wimbourne, and there changed horses; but the town was so crowded with volunteers and visitors, that the royal carriages could scarcely pass along. The windows were filled with ladies elegantly dressed, and all the tops of the houses were covered, such was the eagerness of the country-people to get a sight of the King and Queen. From hence their majesties went on to Ringwood, where a similar scene presented itself, and so it continued all the way to Lyndhurst, where the volunteers from Southampton and other places were assembled. Numbers came from such a distance that they travelled in flying waggons; and the streets in every town through which they passed were filled with coaches, chaises, gigs, carts, and an immense con-

course of horse and foot travellers. The royal family reached Cuffnels soon after four the same afternoon, and immediately sat down to a sumptuous dinner, which had been provided in expectation of their arrival.

On the first of November the corporation of Southampton were honoured with a royal visit. The King entered the town on horseback, but the Queen and princesses went in carriages, and were received in the audit room by the mayor and his brethren. A loyal address was then read to their majesties by the recorder, to which the King returned a most gracious answer, expressive of his particular attachment to the town of Southampton, having been, as he said, a member of the corporation from his infancy. After this ceremony, the royal family went to dine with Mr. Bulkeley, in the New Forest.

The next morning their majesties left Cuffnels, with many kind expressions of satisfaction to the worthy owner of that hospitable mansion and his family, and proceeded amidst the blessings of a numerous assemblage of spectators to Farnham Castle, the palace of the Bishop of Winchester, where an elegant dinner was provided for their entertainment. About four o'clock they took leave of the bishop, and soon after six reached Windsor, to the great joy of the inhabitants, who illuminated

their houses on the happy return of the royal family.

To heighten the gladness occasioned by the renovation of the King's health, an interview took place between His Majesty and the heir-apparent, on the twelfth of this month, at Kew Palace. The Queen and princesses were present at this interesting and most touching scene, which was marked by every emotion of paternal kindness on the one part, and of the most profound veneration on the other. Her Majesty had long felt and deplored this unhappy breach and separation: but all her efforts to bring about a reconciliation were ineffectual, till the recent illness and recovery of the sovereign gave her those opportunities of which she knew how to avail herself for the accomplishment of an object that was the nearest to her heart.

Another proof of Her Majesty's piety and maternal attention appeared this year, in the publication of a volume at her expense, from the new stereotype press of the late Lord Stanhope, being the first work printed by that improved system. This book, which is an imperial octavo, has for its title, "An Abstract of the whole Doctrine of the Christian Religion, with observations, by John Anastatius Freylinghausen, Minister of St. Ulric's Church, and Inspector of the Public School at Halle, in Germany. From a manuscript in Her Majesty's possession."

The work was never printed in its original language; but the Queen highly valued the manuscript, which she made the basis of her lessons of instruction when teaching her daughters; and having caused it to be translated, she desired the late Dr. Porteus, Bishop of London, to revise it for publication, in the hopes that it would be of service to young persons as an elementary book, exhibiting a concise and comprehensive view of the whole system of Christianity. The doctrinal part is perfectly orthodox, and as completely free from any peculiarity of sentiment as the practical division is from enthusiastic flights or mystical reveries.

It is remarkable, however, that the editor of Bishop Porteus's works, and the writer of his life, should not have taken any notice of the concern which that prelate had in the arrangement and publication of the book. This extraordinary silence is no more respectful to the memory of the bishop than to the high character of his illustrious patroness. The preface to the work sufficiently shews his lordship's opinion of its merits; and, therefore, his biographer ought to have noticed the share which he had in the publication. There may be a reason for this strange neglect; but if there is, it must be one of a private nature, since to have assisted the Queen in the promulgation of religious knowledge cannot be considered otherwise than as redounding to the honour of the bishop. In the

judgment of another prelate, indeed, the performance was far from being deserving of the distinction which it received. But the censures passed by Bishop Watson upon a treatise of orthodox divinity will not weigh much with those who have seen that political ecclesiastic magnifying a garbled version of the New Testament, published for the avowed purpose of supporting and propagating Socinianism. A theological work, esteemed by the Queen, and revised by Bishop Porteus, was not likely to meet with the approbation of such a man as the late Bishop of Llandaff, who, by his own account, had no other predilection for the church of England than a most hearty desire to attain her highest honours and possess her richest temporalities.

CHAPTER XXII.

Magnificent Fête given by the King at Windsor Castle.—The Queen's Breakfast at Frogmore.—Installation of Knights of the Garter.—Splendid Celebration of Her Majesty's Birth-Day.—German Theatricals.—Royal Tour to Weymouth.—Death of the Duke of Gloucester.

When the royal family went to reside at Windsor Castle, the King formed the resolution of giving what has been generally termed among good old English customs a house-warming: but the execution of this design was delayed from time to time, till the beginning of the year 1805, when it was carried into effect in a most splendid manner. This fête might be truly called regal, as every thing was done by the direction and under the superintendance of His Majesty, from the preparations of the rooms to the arrangements for the company. While Mr. Wyatt was fitting up the works, the King was giving his orders in every department. The new service of plate prepared for the occasion cost between twenty and thirty thousand pounds, and the whole collection displayed at this festive scene was supposed to be the most magnificent in Europe. A number of persons were employed for a consider-

able time preceding, in hanging the silver chandeliers and other ornaments that had been saved from the French ravagers in Hanover. Glass chandeliers and lustres, to the value of several thousand pounds, were also purposely prepared in London; and no expense was spared to render this a truly royal banquet. Three hundred and ninety persons of distinction were invited, besides the royal family, ministers, and officers of state. Different cards were issued for the concert and ball. The company at the former consisted of about one hundred and fifty. The five trumpeters belonging to the Oxford Blues were stationed in the gallery, on the first flight of stairs, in their full superb gold-lace uniform, and played God save the King, in parts, when any of the royal family entered, which had a very grand effect. As the company proceeded into the castle, they were introduced into the presence-chamber by the pages, the same as on a court-day; and after paying their respects to their majesties, they went round to view the apartments, the appearance of which filled every eye with astonishment.

At eight o'clock the concert began in the Queen's anti-chamber, adjoining the ball-room. The performance, under the direction of Mr. Rogers, was the oratorio of Esther; the instrumental parts consisted principally of Her Majesty's band, who attended in a balcony near the guard-room, in their full dresses. The music ended about ten o'clock,

when the ball commenced, which was led off by the Duke of Cambridge and the Princess Augusta. The floor, instead of being chalked, was painted with fanciful and appropriate devices by an eminent artist. The attention of the company was chiefly arrested by the novel appearance of four silver tables, between the windows, two of which came from Hanover, and had been beautified for the occasion. One of the other two was presented by the corporation of London to King William, and the second by the same body to Queen Anne. The magnificent effect of these massy pieces of plate was considerably heightened by four elegant pier glasses, one over each table, with silver frames. These also came from Hanover. At the fire-places were four large beautiful dogs of solid silver, for burning wood instead of coals, and similar to those used in the time of Henry the Eighth. Cards were played in several rooms. Dancing concluded a few minutes before two, when supper was announced. Their majesties, and the different branches of the family, supped in the guard-room, at a table which was elevated upon a temporary platform, raised about nine inches from the floor, for the purpose of enabling the royal family to behold their company with the greater ease, and also to gratify the curiosity of their guests. Two tables were laid on each side of the room, each holding about sixty persons.

The plate on the royal table was wholly of gold; and nothing but silver was used at the other tables. The beautiful damask cloths which covered the tables had the royal arms woven in them, with tasteful and elegant borders; but what rendered them peculiarly attractive was the circumstance that they were entirely of the workmanship of the princesses. Eighty of the young gentlemen of Eton school were present; and it is a fact, that the King went to the college himself purposely to invite them to the entertainment. They supped in the grand hall upon the ground floor. The number of persons present at the supper could not be less than five hundred. A little after nine o'clock, the princess Charlotte of Wales retired with her governess, Lady de Clifford, and the rest of the royal family withdrew about half-past three in the morning; but the company did not leave the castle till past six. Her Majesty's private rooms were illuminated with beautiful Egyptian lustres; and there were also between five and six hundred silver branches for lights hung in various parts of the royal building. At supper upwards of two hundred and fifty dozen of silver plates were used, and a similar number of silver knives and forks.

Ostrich feathers, to the number of eight or nine, were universally worn by the ladies, and diamonds in profusion; and taste was stretched to the utmost

in the invention of new dresses for this magnificent entertainment, the expense of which was estimated at fifty thousand pounds. The next day Her Majesty gave a grand public breakfast at Frogmore, which was attended by about two hundred persons of the first distinction, who were waited upon by the royal servants in full dress liveries. About three o'clock dancing commenced, which continued till a little after six, when the company sat down to an elegant collation.

Windsor exhibited another scene of royal splendour on Tuesday, the twenty-third of April, being St. George's day, in the grand ceremony of the installation of knights of the garter.

During the whole of the preceding day, the road from London was covered with one continued line of carriages; many of which had six horses, and several outriders. This sight naturally drew together an immense number of spectators from the neighbouring villages to the towns through which they passed. The greatest difficulty was experienced in obtaining a change of horses, and in some instances the nobility were obliged to get out and walk a considerable distance.

It was His Majesty's particular wish that as many of the old customs should be kept up as possible; conformably with which he gave directions that a baron of beef should be procured, which was accordingly done. It was cut nearly in the form of a

saddle of mutton, weighed one hundred and sixty-two pounds, and took ten hours in roasting.

Tuesday morning was ushered in with the ringing of bells, and soon after seven o'clock the royal horse guards marched from their barracks opposite the grand entrance to the castle, where a pair of silver kettle drums having been previously placed, His Majesty came to the door, and addressing the colonel, said, "I present these to you as a mark of my esteem for the good conduct of the regiment upon all occasions." The colonel then delivered a written address of thanks to His Majesty on behalf of the regiment; after which, a corporal lifted the drums upon a grey horse, on which a black was preparing to beat them, when the band, consisting of eight trumpets, struck up "God save the King," concluding with a royal salute, and then returned playing "Britons strike Home," as they passed through the town.

The ceremony of the procession and installation lasted from eleven in the morning till five in the afternoon, when the sovereign and the knights returned from the chapel to St. George's Hall, where a most sumptuous dinner was served up in all the formal grandeur of the days of chivalry.

The preparations for this splendid festival were upon the grandest scale, and executed with extraordinary elegance and rapidity. In the chapel, where alone seats could be obtained by tickets, places were

assigned for spectators in the three aisles, and within the screen; but particular visitors had others allotted them in the organ-loft, the Queen's closet, and the chamberlain's gallery. On the north side of the altar, a temporary gallery, surmounted by a canopy of crimson velvet with a gold fringe, was erected for the Queen and princesses; and on the opposite side was another for the lord chamberlain, officers of state, foreign ambassadors, and ladies of distinction. The banners of the knights were all suspended over the stalls, and above them their respective helmets, crests, and armorial bearings. Exclusive of the knights' banquet in the hall, entertainments were also given in the castle to the nobility and gentry, military officers, and others. The chief of them was in the audience-chamber of Her Majesty, where the concert was given at the late grand fête. It contained three tables, set out in the most beautiful variety and taste for the ladies; the Dowager-Marchioness of Bath, with the Countesses Cardigan and Harcourt, doing the honours to the Queen's guests. The female branches of the royal family dined with Her Majesty in another apartment.

The nineteenth of May being the real birth-day of the Queen, when she completed her sixty-second year, was ushered in with the ringing of bells at Windsor. In the course of the day, the Prince of Wales, and the whole of the royal family, paid their

respects to Her Majesty; but the celebration of the anniversary, on account of its happening on a Sunday, was deferred till Monday, when it was observed with great splendour. Such of the company as came in the morning from London and different parts of the country dined at the equerries' tables; and about seven in the evening the whole began to assemble in considerable numbers. At the top of the stairs they were ushered into the royal apartments by the pages, dressed according to the Windsor uniform.

A little before nine, their majesties, the princesses, and other members of the royal family, entered the ball-room; and soon after the oratorio of Athaliah commenced, at the conclusion of which the dancing began, and was continued with great vivacity till two o'clock in the morning, when the company withdrew to a sumptuous supper in St. George's Hall. The royal family sat at a table under the throne; two large stools, covered with crimson velvet, being placed for their majesties' feet. The table was upon a temporary platform, covered with green cloth, three steps higher than the floor of the room, down the sides of which were laid two tables, one accommodating seventy-six, and the other seventy-seven persons. In the adjoining elegant room, called the King's guard-chamber, two long tables were also laid, each holding eighty-six persons. The ground-work for the whole of the

ornaments consisted of various coloured sand, displaying the most beautiful devices, emblematical of the occasion; and having the semblance of highly coloured drawings. Along the sides of the boards on which the sand was displayed were numerous trinkets for the company. The silver dogs and tables that had been used at the King's entertainment were again exhibited. In another part of the castle, tables were laid for one hundred and fourteen young Etonians, but every thing was cold, and no chairs were allowed in this room.

The following day Her Majesty gave a curious entertainment at Frogmore, consisting of two German musical pieces of a comic description. The characters were performed by two German girls and two German boys; and one of the latter was so extremely humourous, as to produce bursts of laughter even from those who did not understand the language. This exhibition took place in the building called the Barn, which was often fitted up as a temporary theatre. There were three scenes, which, with the stage and decorations, were prepared by an artist from London. A box was erected in front for their majesties and the princesses. About fifty persons of quality sat in the pit; and along the sides seats were placed for the accommodation of the principal inhabitants of Windsor. Their majesties were much pleased with the performances of the juvenile actors, particularly with the boy who

personated a country barber and school-master. Tea and lemonade were served round to the royal party and their visitors in the intervals of the performance, at the conclusion of which an abundance of wine and cake was distributed to the rest of the company.

In the same spirit of condescending generosity, the Queen gave a sumptuous dinner shortly afterwards to the Windsor volunteers, for whose accommodation tents were erected in the grounds at Frogmore, and in the evening the German theatricals were repeated.

On the breaking up of parliament, their majesties and the princesses went to Weymouth, where they spent their time in the usual manner; but a damp was thrown upon their enjoyments, and the gaiety of the place, by the death of the Duke of Gloucester in August, which event, though naturally to have been expected, from the declining state of his health, was sensibly felt by their majesties and the whole royal family. The people of Weymouth also were much concerned at the loss of the duke, whom they considered in some measure as one of their principal patrons, not only by his frequent residence among them, but by his being the means of bringing the King acquainted with the beauties of the place.

At first it was intended that the remains of his royal highness should be deposited with those of

his ancestors in Westminster Abbey; but after the requisite preparations had been made for that purpose, contrary orders came from His Majesty, and the interment took place in the new vault at Windsor, being the first body laid in that sepulchral mansion, which our venerable monarch caused to be set apart for himself and his family: thus, in the midst of health, mindful of the last stage of all earthly grandeur, when, in the language of the poet, it will be found that

The glories of our birth and state
  Are shadows, not substantial things.
There is no armour 'gainst our fate:
  Death lays his icy hand on Kings.
Sceptres and crowns must tumble down,
  And in the dust be equal laid
With the poor crooked scythe and spade.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Defect in the King's Sight.—His Majesty's Birth-Day, 1806.—Inquiry into the Conduct of the Princess of Wales.—Prudence and Generosity of the Queen.—Melancholy aspect of Public Affairs.—The Queen's Birth-Day, 1807.—Return of the Princess of Wales to Court.—Arrival of the Duchess of Brunswick.—Parliamentary Settlement of Frogmore on the Queen.—Description of the House and Grounds.—Her Majesty's Library and Printing Press.

THOUGH the year 1806 opened with the promise of felicity to the royal family, in the renovated state of the King's health, and the improvement of his sight to a degree that enabled him to discern minute objects at table, and distinguish persons at a short distance, the aspect of things, public and private, soon assumed a gloomy cast. As the summer advanced, the complaint in His Majesty's eyes increased; in consequence of which, the fatigue of the drawing-room on his birth-day devolved wholly upon the Queen. In the morning, as usual, the royal dukes breakfasted with their august relatives; and at about half-past twelve the Queen and princesses left Buckingham House for St. James's, with

the customary escort, but at so quick a rate, that two of the horses belonging to the life guards fell, and threw their riders; on which, Her Majesty gave directions that for the future her carriages should not be driven with such velocity.

After the royal party had taken some refreshment, and dressed for the drawing-room, the Archbishop of Canterbury was introduced into the private apartment of the Queen, to whom he delivered a congratulatory oration on the happy return of the day. The concourse of visitors who were by this time assembled in the adjoining room was so great that the attendants had much difficulty in making a clear passage. Soon after Her Majesty had entered the room, the lord chamberlain waved his wand, as a signal for the performance of the birth-day ode, the music to which was wholly taken from Handel. This annual offering being finished, Her Majesty continued to receive the company in her wonted affable manner till near five o'clock, when she found herself so extremely overpowered and fatigued as to be under the necessity of retiring, to the great disappointment of numbers who had been in waiting for presentation a considerable time, but were prevented from getting forward through the pressure of the fashionable crowd.

The exclusion of the Princess of Wales from court, and the appointment of a committee to investigate certain particulars of her conduct, raised

public curiosity to the height of impatience at this time; and the secresy of the inquiry did not fail to furnish the tongue of scandal with matter of malignant insinuation against Her Majesty, as having taken a part in the persecution of unprotected innocence. Into the circumstances of the immediate case to which the attention of the commissioners was directed, or the particulars of the evidence adduced on the occasion, it would be needless here to enter; but the ends of justice require it to be observed, that so far from shewing any enmity to the Princess of Wales, or of countenancing the charges that were alleged against her royal highness, the Queen most studiously avoided all conversation on the subject even with the King, who acted throughout the whole affair according to the spontaneous dictates of his own mind. Nay, up to the time when the information was made to the Prince, his royal mother and sisters were in the constant habit of visiting the princess at Blackheath; nor did they cease doing so till the King himself laid a positive injunction upon them to suspend the intercourse.

The result of this investigation, however satisfactory it might be in regard to the political object for which it was instituted, could not be altogether gratifying to a mind animated by that delicate sense of female honour which trembles at the slightest whisper of reproach. What the feelings of Her Majesty were on becoming acquainted with the dis-

closures elicited in this inquiry will easily be conceived by those who reflect upon the peculiar situation in which she stood, and the dignity which she had to support.

In consenting to the re-admission of the princess, after what had been developed, the Queen certainly consulted prudence rather than inclination; but her affection for the King overbalanced all other considerations; and to keep his mind tranquillized, both Her Majesty and the Prince were disposed to make very large sacrifices. The death of the Duke of Brunswick, at the fatal battle of Auerstadt, and the ruined state of his family, contributed also to this exalted resolution.

The trouble of the Queen was increased at this time by the disastrous state of her native country, which, from its connexion with Prussia, had become a prey to an insolent victor, who seized upon Strelitz, and committed dreadful ravages throughout the whole Duchy of Mecklenburg.

Amidst these cares and pains of royalty, the formal grandeur of the court was to be kept up, and the smiling appearance of gaiety put on, while perhaps the heart sickened under its assumed hilarity, and grieved in secret without being able to complain.

As the eighteenth of January, 1807, fell on a Sunday, the celebration of Her Majesty's birth-day was observed on Monday. In the course of the morning,

the royal dukes and other branches of the family attended to pay their respects at Buckingham House after which the Queen and princesses went to St. James's, where forty boys, educated in Christ's Hospital, attended, with their master, to exhibit the books and drawings executed by them during the preceding year, all of which were carefully examined by Her Majesty, who bestowed upon the youths many commendations.

The drawing-room was completely filled soon after the entrance of the royal party; but though the circle was extremely crowded, the Queen went through the fatigues of the day with a cheerfulness in her manner that gave universal satisfaction, while they who had the particular pleasure of her conversation were delighted with her affability.

Though it was generally expected that the Princess of Wales would have made her appearance on this occasion, the public were disappointed; and the restoration of her royal highness to the honours of the court did not take place till the middle of May, when she was presented to the Queen by the Duke of Cumberland, after which ceremony, and conversing for a few minutes with Her Majesty, she passed on to the princesses, and lastly received the congratulations of the nobility, who were very numerous.

This was a prelude to the splendid gala on the King's birth-day, when the entrance of His Ma-

jesty into the seventieth year of his age gave occasion to all ranks to vie in demonstrations of loyal affection to their venerable monarch.

The multitudes of persons who gained admittance into the palace exceeded what had been witnessed for many years. Every room was full, and the avenues were crowded almost to suffocation. The company continued to enter the court-yard from twelve till past four, and the line of carriages extended so far, that many persons of the first fashion got out, and walked to St. James's; though even then it was with much difficulty they could make their way through the immense throng. The inconvenience was scarcely less within the palace, where a free passage could hardly be made for the royal personages, such was the eagerness of the people to witness the meeting of the Prince and Princess of Wales in the presence of their august parents. Unfortunately, however, the King was prevented from making his appearance, in consequence of the weakness of his eyes, though in other respects his health was unimpaired. Soon after the entrance of the Queen into the drawing-room, the Prince came, and conversed with her for some minutes; and about three o'clock the attention of the company was fixed upon the princess, who was elegantly attired, in a style that reminded every person present of Mary Queen of Scots. After complimenting Her Majesty and the princesses, she entered

into conversation with the Prince, during which there was a profound silence throughout the assembly, as though all present had felt the same sentiment, and thought that the perfect restoration of harmony and future felicity depended upon this interesting moment. But there was nothing in the scene beyond the forms of politeness; and whatever might be the public wish, there were not wanting persons, who, from their opportunities of observation, concluded that any further connexion was impracticable.

The arrival of the Duchess of Brunswick in the following month had a considerable effect upon the national sympathy; and the interview between the King and his sister, after a separation of forty years, was the more affecting, from the circumstances of these venerable personages, the one being almost in a state of darkness, and the other a widowed exile.

On the part of Her Majesty, and indeed of the whole royal family, the most studied attentions were paid to the comforts of the aged princess, who, as long as she resided with her daughter at Blackheath, and ever after, experienced nothing but respect and kindness from her illustrious relatives.

During this session of parliament, an act was passed, pursuant to a message from the crown, for the settlement of Frogmore, with other lands in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, appertaining to

Windsor Forest, upon the Queen, for the period of ninety-nine years, or the lives of Her Majesty and the five youngest princesses.

This estate was sold, with other lands of the crown, in the time of the civil war, but reverted after the restoration, and ultimately became the leasehold property of Mrs. Egerton, from whom the Queen purchased it, and made great improvements, both in the house and grounds.

Frogmore stands about half a mile east of New Windsor, in a pleasant vale that separates the Little Park from the Forest. It is surrounded by a number of very fine old oaks and elms, many of which are in the garden, a delightful spot of thirteen acres, admirably laid out, and enriched with a vast variety of plants, shrubs, and flowers, both indigenous and exotic. Many fanciful buildings are also interspersed between the trees and along the walks; but though art has done much, the whole is made to assimilate most judiciously with the adjacent forest scenery. The house is not large, but plain, neat, and fitted up throughout in a style of elegant simplicity. Most of the apartments, however, contain very valuable cabinet paintings; which, together with Mr. West's original sketches, and, above all, the library, exhibit a striking memorial of the refined taste and solid judgment of Her Majesty. Among the literary treasures here col-

lected, are several important works, illustrated at a great expense; and adjoining to the library, which looks into the garden, is a room containing a printing-press, and every necessary apparatus, from whence have issued some small pieces, under the immediate direction of Her Majesty, who, on being informed that the place must be entered according to act of parliament, facetiously replied to the librarian, "Well, let it be so: I believe there is no danger of our being sent to Reading gaol for printing libels."

Besides many single sheets on religious subjects, there have been printed at this royal press sets of cards, exhibiting chronological abridgments of the history of Rome, Germany, France, Spain, and Portugal, all of them extremely well calculated to assist the memory and exercise the faculties of young persons.

Two books only, of sixty copies each, have been here printed, and both in the year 1812: the first, a small octavo of one hundred and eleven pages, bearing this title, "Translations from the German, in Prose and Verse," is thus inscribed: "The Gift of the Queen to her beloved Daughters, Charlotte-Augusta-Matilda, Augusta-Sophia, Elizabeth, Mary, and Sophia: and with her permission dedicated to their Royal Highnesses, by Ellis-Constantia Knight." The other is a foolscap quarto, of ninety

pages, with the simple title of "Miscellaneous Poems." Both have an etching, by way of vignette, representing a garden view of the library. All the translations in the first book are religious, consisting of prayers, meditations, and hymns; the prose part being chiefly taken from the works of Dr. Seiler, whose explanatory works on the Scriptures may be considered as models of rational and enlightened piety, which are equally calculated to improve the understanding and touch the heart.

The volume of "Miscellaneous Poems" consists chiefly of fugitive pieces, which appear to have struck the fancy of the selector, who has also interspersed some original versions from Italian and German writers. The following "devotional piece, to be sung to Pleyel's German hymn," will speak for itself:

Oh! my God, thy servant hear;
To my prayer incline thine ear:
When ruddy morning streaks the skies,
To thee I lift mine op'ning eyes.

When the sun conceals his head
Beneath the western ocean's bed,
Of thee, my God, I ask repose,
To calm with sleep my pains and woes.

When I press the bed of death,
Take, oh take, my parting breath!
Save me by thy gracious power
From all the horrors of that hour.

When the righteous judge, thy Son,
Shall sit upon his glory's throne,
And all the angelic host shall see
The dead arise from earth and sea,

Oh! then may I and mine rejoice
To hear the trumpet's awful voice,
And cloth'd in white robes, ever sing
Hosannas to our heavenly king!

CHAPTER XXIV.

Private Life of the Royal Family.—Charitable Institutions patronized by Her Majesty.—Present to the Princess Charlotte.—Care of the Education of Her Royal Highness.—Work written for that Purpose by Mrs. More.—Present of eastern Animals to the Queen.—Jubilee on the Commencement of the Fiftieth Year of His Majesty's Reign.—Grand Entertainment at Frogmore.—Reflections.—Death of the Princess Amelia.—Illness of the King.—Tribute to the Memory of Miss Gaskoin.

THOUGH their majesties began now to feel the infirmities of age, the King in a decay of vision, and the Queen in the weakness of her feet, they both enjoyed in other respects good health, and that flow of spirits which accompanies the calm remembrance of a life well spent. Their principal residence was at Windsor, where, in the bosom of domestic comforts, they passed the time with the strictest regard to an economical distribution; both rising very early, the King constantly at six, and the Queen never exceeding seven, even in the depth of winter. About nine they met the princesses at the breakfast table; soon after which they respectively separated, either for excursions or occupations. The King took his plain dinner of beef or

mutton alone, without any wine, about one o'clock; and a little after four he joined the Queen and princesses at the dessert table. The remainder of the evening was spent in music, conversation, or cards, and invariably at ten their majesties retired for the night. Such was the general order observed throughout the year; but though their majesties withdrew themselves in a great degree from the pomp and parade of royalty, they did not lead a secluded life, or appear as if senility had rendered them discontented with the world. On the contrary, they were still active, and even sportively cheerful in conversation; never more happy than in contributing to the pleasure of others, and gladly embracing every opportunity of doing good without ostentation.

To the Queen, nothing was more delightful than institutions calculated for the improvement of the rising generation; and these she liberally encouraged, both by her own subscriptions, and by recommending them warmly to the support of others. About this time she patronized a school set up by the Honorable Mrs. Harcourt, at Clewer; and in the same spirit of charity, she co-operated with the Princess Elizabeth in an institution at Windsor, for portioning out young women of good character in marriage. The feelings of Her Majesty were therefore highly gratified this summer, in two visits to Oatlands, where a large assemblage of orphan children dined under marquees on the green, all of

them clothed, maintained, and educated, at the entire expense of the Duchess of York, who gave these entertainments on her own birth-day and that of the duke.

The harmony of the royal family was at this time undisturbed; and the intercourse between the several branches of it was both frequent and friendly. One interesting object that appeared to concentrate these sentiments of amity more closely was the Princess Charlotte of Wales, now advancing upon the stage of public life, and exciting general attention. In the spring of this year, her royal highness caught the measles, during which illness she was visited by the Queen, who presented her with a superb service of china, manufactured on purpose, from drawings executed by Lady de Clifford, the governess of the princess.

The education of her grand-daughter engaged much of Her Majesty's thoughts, and she made constant inquiries on the subject, but without appearing to exercise the least authority in the choice of instructors, or giving any directions relative to the mode of teaching which she wished to be pursued. At her suggestion, indeed, delicately and handsomely conveyed through the medium of the Bishop of London, the first female writer in the kingdom undertook a work upon royal education; the execution of which will ever redound to the

honour of the talents so employed, and the mind that elicited them on this occasion.

In the summer of 1809, Her Majesty was much gratified by the arrival of three beautiful antelopes, a male and two females, which were sent from Delhi to the Prince of Wales, who had been long desirous of obtaining some of these fine and rare animals, to enrich the ornamental stock at Frogmore.

On the twenty-fifth of October, that favourite mansion of the Queen was the scene of splendid festivity, to commemorate the entrance of His Majesty into the fiftieth year of his reign. This national jubilee was celebrated all over the kingdom with the fullest demonstrations of loyal affection; the people every where vying with each other in their expressions of joy, on an occurrence to which no parallel could be found in the English history.

At Windsor the morning was ushered in by the sound of the trumpet; after which the drums beat to arms, and the bells began to ring a merry peal. Between eight and nine o'clock, their majesties, the Princess Elizabeth, and the Dukes of York and Sussex, attended divine service in the private chapel; on the conclusion of which, Turnerelli, the sculptor, was introduced to the Queen and the royal party, to whom he presented the bust of the King, for which His Majesty had lately sat to that artist.

But the refined entertainment was at night, when the gates of Frogmore Gardens were thrown open for the admission of company, who on their entrance were struck with astonishment and delight at the fanciful scene of variegated lamps, which, in the shape of watchmen's lanterns, were suspended through all the avenues and walks; while the lawns adjoining to the house afforded a rich display of the choicest shrubs and plants taken from the green-house. On the arrival of the Queen at ten o'clock the fireworks began; after which there suddenly appeared, with a magical effect, on a beautiful piece of water, two triumphal cars, each drawn by as many sea-horses. In one of these cars sat the representative of Neptune; and that which preceded it was occupied by a band of music. On coming to the temporary bridge erected over the canal opposite to the garden front, the battlements exhibited a sudden display of transparencies, with the words, "Rule Britannia," which tune was immediately played by the band. On the mount, opposite to this bridge, an elegant Grecian temple was erected, surrounded by eight beautiful marble pillars. The interior of this building was lined with purple, and in the centre was a large transparency of the eye of Providence, beaming with radiancy upon the portrait of His Majesty, and surmounted by stars of lamps. From the temple a double staircase descended to the edge of the water; and on

the windings of this staircase were placed nine altars burning with incense.

On the lawn were twelve marquees, where the company partook of tea and coffee during the fireworks; covers also were laid in the principal dining rooms of the house, and at twelve the visitors sat down to an elegant supper, consisting of all the delicacies of the season. The frames were beautifully done in emblematic figures, the chief of which represented Britannia kneeling by the lion, with the eye of Providence above, and, underneath, this inscription, written by Princess Elizabeth:

"Britannia, grateful to Providence, celebrates the fiftieth year of a reign sacred to piety and virtue."

On the island in the middle of the sheet of water a temple was erected, being a square building ornamented with Doric columns, surmounted by a dome, bearing emblematical figures, descriptive of the happy event now celebrated. Fronting the vista, or grand promenade walk, leading from the house to the lake, was a bridge, consisting of only one arch, like the Rialto at Venice, decorated and illuminated. In the centre of the temple was an altar, classically ornamented in the allegorical style, the designs of which were furnished by the Princess Elizabeth. Fronting the altar was a female figure of Gratitude, kneeling, and exactly resembling the Venus of Cleomenes. The temple and bridge

were the only erections made at Frogmore expressly for the jubilee festival; and the contrivance was such, that the figures in the former could be seen in perspective, by means of open arches, from the house and gardens on every side. The fanciful and romantic bower, or rustic ball-room, built under the superintendence of the Princess Elizabeth some years before, but which for some time had been suffered to fall into decay, was now repaired, ornamented with laurel leaves, and splendidly illuminated. On the lawn, and throughout the gardens, tents were erected sufficiently capacious to accommodate from twelve to fifteen hundred persons.

In the town of Windsor there were two grand triumphal arches, the first, which extended from the Castle Inn over the high street, to the town-hall, was decorated with obelisks and devices in transparent colours; and the second, in Sheet Lane, which was put up at the sole expense of Mr. Tibbett, carpenter to the Board of Works at Windsor, had no less than two thousand variegated lamps.

The minuteness of these details will be excused by him who reflects that such incidents are illustrative of personal character, as well as of the age in which they happened. The Queen has often been stigmatized with the charge of excessive parsimoniousness, than which nothing could be wider from the truth, and these festivities alone, to say nothing of her acts of benevolence, are an ample re-

futation of the calumny. And yet it is curious that some of those very persons who industriously circulated the falsehood, respecting the disposition of Her Majesty, should have reproached her for what they inconsistently enough termed imprudent extravagance. It should be considered, however, that this was an event of no ordinary occurrence; and that when the Queen compared the joy that now abounded with what she had witnessed near fifty years before, on her arrival in England, it was hardly possible for her to avoid sharing in the general gladness.

But this great national feast of thanksgiving was not attended with mere pageantry and entertainments. It was distinguished also by the substantial sacrifices of mercy and charity. Large subscriptions were entered into for the relief of the distressed; and His Majesty, besides sending two thousand pounds to the society for the discharge of small debts in London, transmitted one thousand to Scotland, and a like sum to Ireland, for the same purpose. In the same spirit of kindness, he caused all the prisoners of war then on their parole, with the exception of the French, to be liberated: and the only reason why the people of the latter nation were excluded, was the barbarity shewn to the English wherever Buonaparte could extend his arbitrary mandate.

On the seventeenth of January, 1810, Her Majesty held a private court at Buckingham House,

where the Persian ambassador was introduced with his credentials and presents, which last consisted of boxes of jewels, rich shawls of great value, and a most curious carpet.

The day following was observed in the usual manner at St. James's, the drawing-room being attended by all the people of fashion in town, and numerous presentations took place; throughout the whole of which fatiguing ceremony the Queen, though now nearly sixty-six years of age, conducted herself with perfect ease and condescension.

Yet, in the midst of gaiety, the heart is often heavy, and even the effervescence of joy touches upon the extreme of sorrow. Thus, at the present time, while the appearance of felicity was kept up by the British court, and while the feelings of a loyal people overflowed in the demonstration of attachment to the best of sovereigns, the cloud of trouble was about to damp the enjoyments of the palace, and to spread consternation over the country. The Princess Amelia, their majesties' youngest daughter, had long been in a declining state of health; for which, among other means employed, the sea-air and bathing had hitherto proved most beneficial, but without affording any flattering prospect of recovery. At the beginning of this year, the disorder of her royal highness assumed a more alarming aspect; and as the summer advanced, symptoms arose which set all medical skill at de-

fiance. From her earliest youth she was of a very delicate constitution, and was frequently attacked with serious complaints, which increased as she grew up; and, though partially relieved, they never failed to recur at certain periods, and generally under new forms, with aggravated severity. At the beginning of autumn, the princess was attacked with St. Anthony's fire to a violent degree, which brought on such excruciating pains as could not but shatter a frame naturally tender, and already weakened by the repeated assaults of an incurable malady. During the whole of her sufferings, which language cannot describe, she displayed the noblest Christian fortitude; and this spirit of pious resignation to the will of Providence increased in proportion to her agonies, so that she truly overcame the sting of death by the power of faith. While thus she lay languishing in expectation of her last hour, the King attended her constantly, administering to his child every consolation that could be drawn from religion, though his own heart suffered dreadfully in witnessing the pains which he could not alleviate. Nor did the Queen feel less acutely for her daughter and husband, between both of whom, at this awful season, her cares were divided. The whole family, indeed, were depressed with sorrow; and at the same time that every one knew there was no hope of recovery, all seemed to dread the arrival of the moment of separation, which, to the

royal patient herself, was that of desirable deliverance. For the last few days, the strength of the princess rapidly wore away, and she died about twelve o'clock on the second of November, without the least convulsive motion, as one dropping insensibly and calmly into a gentle sleep. A short time before her death, wishing to present her venerable father with a token of filial duty and affection, she caused a ring to be made, containing a small lock of her hair, inclosed under a crystal tablet, set round with a few sparks of diamonds. When this affecting memorial was completed, she kept it in her hand till the King came to pay his usual visit, when she placed it herself upon his finger, and then said, as her fine though pallid features were turned fondly towards the afflicted countenance of her august parent, "Take this token, to remember me."

The effect of this present on the paternal heart of His Majesty, after so many severe trials during his daughter's illness, was like that of an electric shock. He withdrew from the apartment, overpowered with grief, and never entered it again. The princess having thus gratified her anxious desire, resigned herself to the stroke of fate, and in a few days expired, without knowing that her father was ill, and that by her innocent endearment she had been the cause of his malady.

In person, her royal highness was tall and slender,

with an air remarkably graceful and prepossessing, although a long course of indisposition had impressed striking marks on her charming and expressive countenance. This frequency of ill-health prevented her from studying so deeply as her elder sisters; and yet she had cultivated the fine arts with great success. In music and painting she was a proficient; and few could equal her on the piano-forte. Notwithstanding a long and agonizing sickness, which, like the canker-worm, preyed inwardly upon her constitution, she was generally cheerful, and ever studied to conceal her sufferings as much as possible, to avoid giving pain to her friends and attendants. In performing the duties of humanity she was indefatigable; and in the relations of domestic life nothing could exceed her attention, assiduity, and affection.

The remains of her royal highness were on the night of the fourteenth privately interred in St. George's Chapel; and during the whole day on which the funeral took place the shops in Windsor and Eton were shut up: as a farther testimony of respect to the memory of the princess, scarcely an individual was to be seen in the streets who was not attired in mourning.

The princess, by her will, directed that all her jewels should be sold for the payment of what she owed, and the discharge of a few bequests; but the Prince of Wales, who was left residuary legatee,

gave the whole of the property to the Princess Mary, who had incessantly watched the dying bed of her sister, taking upon herself the responsibility of settling all the claims. One extraordinary and affecting testimony to the exalted virtues of the deceased appeared in the effect produced by her demise upon Miss Gaskoin, a favourite attendant, who sorrowed for her loss to such a degree, that, in a short time, she followed her royal mistress to the grave. Out of respect to this excellent young lady, His Majesty ordered that her remains should be deposited as near as possible to the royal vault, and a marble tablet to be placed on the right hand aisle of St. George's Chapel, with the following inscription:

King George III.
caused to be interred near this Place
the Body of MARY GASKOIN,
Servant to the late Princess Amelia:
and this Stone
to be inscribed in Testimony of his grateful
Sense
Of the faithful Service and Attachment
Of an amiable young Woman to his beloved
Daughter,
Whom she survived only three months.
She died the 19th of February, 1811.

CHAPTER XXV.

Illness of the King.—Parliamentary Proceedings.—Address to Her Majesty.—Hopes of Recovery.—Interview with the Queen.—Fête at Carlton House.—Relapse.—Birth-Day of the Princess Charlotte.—Parliamentary Grant.—Drawing-Room.—Assassination of Mr. Perceval.—State of Public Affairs.—Birth-Day of the Prince Regent.—Death of the Duchess of Brunswick.—A Maniac.—Consecration of the Bishop of London.

At the beginning of October, His Majesty betrayed symptoms of nervous debility, which proceeded from intense anxiety about the state of his beloved child; but though the disorder appeared at first in a gentle form, it continued to increase till the end of the month; when he became incapable of transacting business. In the first week of November, the mental irritability was so very great, that the King had scarcely any clear idea of persons or circumstances for two minutes together; in consequence of which, parliament met without any farther prorogation, but adjourned again for a fortnight; at the expiration of which time, a farther adjournment took place till the twentieth of Decem-

ber, when a warm debate ensued on the propositions brought forward by the minister relative to the state of the nation. The precedent in 1788 formed the basis of the present proceedings, and while it was proposed to commit the powers of government, with limitations, into the hands of the Prince of Wales, the care and guardianship of the King's person, together with the entire appointment and direction of the household, were to be entrusted to the Queen, and the council appointed to assist Her Majesty in the discharge of the weighty trust. It was not to be expected that such a measure would pass without opposition, and accordingly a fierce one was made through all the stages of the propositions, which, however, were carried, with modifications, through both houses, who concurred in an address to the Queen, expressing a hope that she would be graciously pleased to undertake the important duties proposed to be invested in Her Majesty as soon as an act of parliament should have been passed for carrying the resolution into effect. To this address Her Majesty made this reply:

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"That sense of duty and gratitude to the King, and of obligation to this country, which induced me in the year 1789 readily to promise my most earnest attention to the anxious and momentous trust at that time intended to be reposed in me by

parliament, is strengthened, if possible, by the uninterrupted enjoyment of those blessings which I have continued to experience under the protection of His Majesty since that period: and I should be wanting to all my duties if I hesitated to accept the sacred trust which is now offered to me. The assistance, in point of counsel and advice, which the wisdom of parliament proposes to provide for me, will make me undertake the charge with greater hopes, that I may be able satisfactorily to fulfil the important duties which it must impose upon me. Of the nature and importance of that charge, I cannot but be duly sensible, involving, as it does, every thing which is valuable to myself, as well as the highest interests of a people endeared to me by so many ties and considerations; but by nothing so strongly as by their steady, loyal, and affectionate attachment to the best of kings."

During the progress of the bill, His Majesty became more tranquil, collected, and even inquisitive into the state of public affairs, so as to hold out the hopes of a speedy recovery. Still, however, it was expedient that the regency should be settled for the discharge of the proper functions of government, and the Prince entered upon his high office under the restrictions which the wisdom of parliament had thought it prudent to impose. By the middle of May, the King was so far restored to

the possession of his faculties, that, on the nineteenth, he went to Her Majesty's apartments in Windsor Castle for the first time after his confinement, to congratulate her upon the return of her birth-day. The scene was uncommonly interesting, and the whole of the royal family were present, to share in the pleasure which it afforded. On the following day, the inhabitants of Windsor were gratified by the first appearance of their venerable sovereign on horseback after his illness. His Majesty rode between two equerries, one of whom guided his horse, with a cane which had a crook at one end of it, for the purpose of catching the bridle. The King was accompanied in this excursion by the Princesses Augusta and Sophia, with whom he chatted in his usual cheerful way.

On the thirteenth of the following month, the Prince Regent gave a most splendid fête at Carlton House, with a two-fold motive: first, in honour of the birth-day of his august parent; and, secondly, to benefit the numerous classes of British artizans and tradesmen, who, by the illness of the sovereign, and the discontinuance of the accustomed splendour of the court, had been deprived of many advantages. His royal highness, therefore, determined to exhibit a magnificent entertainment, not out of ostentation, but with a view to general utility; on which account he expressed his wish that all the invited guests would attend in habits of

native manufacture. But this gleam of joy, occasioned by the amended state of His Majesty's health, was suddenly extinguished, and before the expiration of a month, the disorder returned with sudden and frightful violence. The immediate cause of this repercussion was never made known to the public; but there can be little doubt of the fact, that the being deprived of power, and an apprehension of political changes, contrary to His Majesty's sentiments, operated so strongly on his mind as to produce an incurable exacerbation.

Nothing, of course, was left undone that could possibly be thought of to tranquillize the royal patient, to dissipate his fears, and win his confidence; but all these attempts only served to heighten the disease, and towards the end of the year an official report was made, in which it was stated, that though some of the physicians did not absolutely pronounce a recovery impossible, yet, that under all the circumstances of the case, it was their unanimous opinion that such an event was scarcely probable. In this gloomy state of things, parliament assembled on the seventh of January, 1812; and as on that day the Princess Charlotte entered the seventeenth year of her age, the same was observed with due distinction at Carlton House, where Her Majesty, the princesses, and a select party, were sumptuously entertained. A few days afterwards the chancellor of the exchequer proposed

and carried a motion for granting a permanent addition of ten thousand a-year to Her Majesty's income, which, however, was vigorously resisted by the leaders of the opposition, as a measure rather calculated to increase the ministerial influence, than for the benefit of the royal family.

After a lapse of two years, the splendour of the court was revived in a drawing-room, held by Her Majesty at St. James's on the last day of April, which was numerously attended; and in the evening, the Prince Regent gave a grand entertainment to the Queen, princesses, and a very large party of the nobility.

The melancholy fate of that upright statesman, Mr. Perceval, who fell by the hands of an assassin, in the sanctuary of the constitution, made a deep impression upon the Queen, who, as well as the King, had ever entertained a great respect for his eminent talents and unostentatious virtues. The steady conduct of this excellent man in the settlement of the regency contributed to raise him still higher in the estimation of Her Majesty, and of almost every branch of the royal family. Such indeed was the sterling worth, and engaging manners, of Mr. Perceval, that no one could become slightly acquainted with him, and forbear the wish to cultivate a closer intimacy.

Both the Queen and the Regent, therefore, felt this loss very acutely, as one not easily repaired, and

which at that critical juncture of affairs was likely to prove extremely injurious to the public interests.

Great changes in the political world were naturally expected to be the consequence of this calamitous event, and for some weeks the executive government stood suspended, waiting the appointment of new ministers in the room of those who then acted, but who in fact had already resigned their places. At length, however, after every honourable effort had been made in vain to unite the different leaders of the opposition, the Prince very judiciously renewed the power of the administration, which had received what was considered a death-blow; and the nation had soon reason to applaud the resolution.

In the mean time, the disorder of the King took a very unfavourable turn, and the paroxysms which he suffered exceeded what had occurred since his illness. Some of these attacks lasted without intermission fifty or sixty hours, and at one time the royal patient was left in a speechless state, so as to create the most fearful apprehensions in the minds of his medical attendants.

Nothing but the strength of a constitution invigorated by temperance could have borne up against this fearful conflict in the system, the agitation of which, both in violence and duration, astonished those who were called to the painful task of witnessing the scene. Sometime previous to this, the

Queen, accompanied by one or two of the princesses, used to visit His Majesty for an hour or more every day; and though his discourse was rapid, with frequent wanderings, yet upon the whole he was calm, and never failed to recognize the presence of his family. But now this solace could be no longer enjoyed: his mental aberrations were continual, and a dark cloud seemed to have blotted out the remembrance of all existing objects for ever. Still, amidst this chaos, some of the most intelligent of the faculty were not altogether without hopes of a partial recovery, in which idea they were encouraged by what had occurred after former paroxysms. This judgment received some confirmation; and though the royal sufferer did not regain the powers of intellectual discernment, his bodily health was speedily recruited, and in a short time he was pronounced to be, in that respect, as well as he was before the recent attack.

While the British nation was thus inwardly distressed, she had the consolation to see her exertions successful in the deliverance of others; and though a dismal and cheerless gloom had entered into her own palaces, the light of joy was beaming, by her means, over distant lands. The struggle for independence in the Peninsula, aided by the powerful operations of the British army under the illustrious Wellington, now excited the attention and eager expectation of all Europe. A mighty crisis was

evidently approaching, and even those, who had long abandoned all hope of seeing a termination put to the ambitious career of the usurper of the French throne, began to think that his idol, Fortune, was about to exhibit another instance of her inconstancy. But they, who, mindful of deeper causes, calmly reflected that in the excess of power gained by crime, the elements of self-destruction are necessarily accumulated with the means of oppression, looked upon the passing scene as preluding an important change for the repose of the world.

It was impossible that persons who viewed things in this light could avoid turning their thoughts with sympathetic concern towards the exiled family of France, then enjoying on British ground that security and hospitality which had been cruelly denied them every where else.

Persecuted by the usurper of their inheritance, and abandoned in their utmost need by the monarchs of their own blood, they found a tranquil asylum in this island, even when peace with the oppressor might have been obtained by their expulsion.

Whatever reason, therefore, England has to be proud of her achievements by land and sea, this triumph of honour and humanity far exceeded in solid glory all the splendour of her victories.

As such it was duly appreciated by both the royal families; and exquisite must have been their

mutual feelings when they met together at Oatlands on the thirtieth of July, when the Duke and Duchess of York gave a splendid entertainment, at which were present, with the Queen and most of the royal family, all the members of the House of Bourbon then in England.

The birth-day of the Prince Regent was this year publicly celebrated for the first time, on which occasion Her Majesty entertained his royal highness and a numerous party at Frogmore.

On the twenty-fourth of March, 1813, the Duchess-Dowager of Brunswick died, in the seventy-sixth year of her age, having been ill only two days, and in the following week her remains were interred in the new cemetery at Windsor.

A short time after this event, an incident occurred which greatly affected the Queen, and had like to have proved of very serious consequence.

Miss Davenport, who was born in the household, where her mother had for near forty years enjoyed a respectable situation, fell into a desponding way on the death of the Princess Amelia; but as she exhibited no symptoms of violent derangement, little notice was taken of her eccentricities. She slept in the tower over the Queen's bed-room; and about five o'clock in the morning of the second of May Her Majesty was awakened by a loud knocking at the outward door of her chamber, accompa-

nied with frightful screams. Mrs. Beckendorf, the Queen's dresser, who slept in the same room with Her Majesty, instantly arose, and both for some time hesitated about what was to be done. On ascertaining a female voice, Mrs. Beckendorf slowly opened the inner door, and ventured out into the apartment from whence the noise proceeded, where she was encountered by Miss Davenport with extreme ferocity, demanding access to the Queen. She had a letter in her hand, which she insisted upon delivering to Her Majesty, who heard all that passed, and was in great distress for Mrs. Beckendorf, without being able to render her the least assistance. After a long struggle, that lady succeeded in keeping off the unhappy maniac till Mr. Grobecker, the Queen's page, arrived with two footmen; but even these three could not manage the poor creature without calling Mr. Meyer, the porter, who being a very powerful man, carried her up stairs to her own room. Dr. Willis was then sent for, by whose directions a straight waistcoat was put on, and Miss Davenport instantly conveyed in a post-chaise to an asylum for lunatics at Hoxton.

On Sunday, the third of October, this year, Her Majesty and two of the princesses went to see the solemnity of an episcopal consecration, performed in the chapel of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr. Howley, the Bishop of London,

was the prelate who received this distinction; and he is the only divine in the present reign who has been so honoured. After the ceremony, which made a deep impression upon the Queen and her daughters, they partook of an elegant collation, and at three o'clock returned to Buckingham House.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Brilliant Aspect of Public Affairs.—Arrival of the Duchess of Oldenburg.—Departure of the Royal Family of France.—Correspondence of the Princess of Wales.—Arrival of the Allied Sovereigns.—Anecdote of the King.—Temporary Elopement of the Princess Charlotte.—The Princess of Wales leaves the Kingdom.—Reflections.—National Jubilee.—Grand Fête at Frogmore.—Drawing-Room.—Princess Charlotte's Entertainment.

A CENTURY had now elapsed since the accession of the house of Brunswick to the throne of these realms; and the year which completed the cycle was distinguished by events that contributed to heighten the national joy in the commemoration of the interesting period.

The arrival of the Duchess of Oldenburg in London, at the end of March, seemed like the harbinger of a delightful spring, after a long and cheerless winter. This amiable and accomplished princess received from all ranks of persons the most cordial welcome; and the Queen, with the whole of her family, strove by every exertion to render the

stay of the illustrious stranger in England as agreeable as possible.

The departure of the King of France to take possession of the throne of his ancestors, accompanied by the remaining branches of the Bourbons, who had survived the revolutionary tempest, gave a touching effect to this picture of providence; for such it was in all its parts, as well as in the general issue. In contemplating the mighty change that had taken place, and looking with astonishment upon the sudden downfall of the colossal power that had so recently defied and appalled the world, even sceptical minds could scarcely avoid adopting the language of the philosophical orator: "Non est humano consilio, ne mediocri quidem, Deorum immortalium cura, res illa perfecta, religiones mehercule ipsæ, quæ illam belluam cadere viderunt commovisse se videntur, et jus in illo suum retinuisse." No human wisdom, indeed, could have foreseen or contrived such an event, which was altogether so far out of the ordinary course of things, as almost to give to the scene an appearance of the divine agency.

While Her Majesty shared in the general feeling, and was deeply grateful for the blessings which produced it, her spirits were damped, and her mind agitated, by a very unpleasant dilemma. It having been announced that the Emperor Alexander and the King of Prussia would visit England in the

course of the summer, due notice was given of the Queen's intention to hold two drawing-rooms at Buckingham House, which of course excited a considerable bustle in the fashionable world. In the mean time, the Prince Regent transmitted a communication to his august parent, in which His Royal Highness observed, "that for reasons of which he alone was the judge, he had formed a fixed and unalterable determination never to meet the Princess of Wales upon any occasion, either in public or private."

Thus situated, the Queen had no alternative; for, as the presence of the Regent at court was indispensible, and he had himself clogged it with a condition, nothing was left to Her Majesty but to apprize the princess that she could not be received at the drawing-room. This communication was followed by a correspondence, in which the princess introduced much irrelevant matter, not unmixed with bitter reproach and indignant menace. In her letter to the Queen, the princess, after beseeching Her Majesty to acquaint the illustrious strangers with the reason of her absence, very strangely signified her intention of making the cause public to all the world. In answer to this long note, the Queen took notice of this curious request and declaration, in the following terms: "Her Majesty could have felt no hesitation in communicating to the illustrious strangers who may possibly be

present at her court, the circumstances which will prevent the Princess of Wales from appearing there, if Her Royal Highness had not rendered a compliance with her wish to this effect unnecessary, by intimating her intention of making public the cause of her absence." This drew a reply, in which the princess endeavoured to reconcile the inconsistency of asking the Queen to do that which she was about to perform herself; but Her Majesty, in acknowledging the receipt of the note, declined any farther discussion of the subject. The princess, however, was as good as her word, and the letters not only made their appearance in the daily prints, but were transmitted by her to the speaker of the House of Commons, which produced some vehement speeches, and had the effect of procuring for her royal highness a parliamentary grant of thirty-five thousand a-year.

Amidst this ungracious business, the Queen and the Prince were exposed to much obloquy; and the insults offered to them by the misguided populace reflected disgrace upon those, who, from party motives, took a pleasure in spreading a flame which they ought to have extinguished.

During these heats, the allied sovereigns landed at Dover; and may Englishmen ever remember with honest pride the emphatic exclamation of the Emperor, "God be praised! I have set my foot upon the land which has saved us all!"

On the eighth of June, the day after their arrival in

London, a court, unexampled in point of splendour, was held at the Queen's palace, expressly for their introduction; after which, Her Majesty, the princesses, and their illustrious visitors, dined with the Prince Regent at Carlton House. On the tenth, the allied sovereigns, with a numerous train, went to Ascot races, taking Richmond and Hampton Court by the way; and on the course they were joined by the Queen and her family, with whom they afterwards dined at Frogmore.

A detail of the entertainments which distinguished this season of festivity would be perhaps amusing; but it is here unnecessary, as Her Majesty had little share in them, owing to her advanced period of life and increasing infirmities. Nothing, however, was omitted that could do honour to the imperial and royal visitors, who left the kingdom, after a stay of three weeks, strongly impressed with sentiments of admiration and regard.

A circumstance happened at this period which greatly afflicted the Queen, and made her almost incapable of entering, with animated delight, into the extraordinary spectacle then exhibiting, and of which her family and court formed, as it were, the central point of observation. While the allied sovereigns were receiving and communicating pleasure, our venerable monarch began to evince an appearance of returning reason, so far indeed as to be made sensible of the great revolution that had taken

place in Europe. The Queen being, of course, duly apprized of this pleasing change, ordered that she should be informed when His Majesty was in a state capable of conversation. She was so; and, on entering into the room, she found the King singing a hymn, and accompanying it on the harpsichord; after which, he knelt down and prayed most fervently for the Queen, his children, and the nation, concluding with an earnest supplication for himself, that it would please the great disposer of all events to remove the heavy calamity under which he laboured; but if not, to give him the spirit of patient resignation and humble submission to the divine will. Having concluded this solemn act of devotion, the aged monarch burst into tears: the gleam of reason fled, and Her Majesty was too much moved by what she had witnessed to disturb him more by her presence.

Another occurrence, which at this period gave no little uneasiness to the Queen, was the flight of the Princess Charlotte on the evening of the twelfth of July, from Brunswick House, to the residence of her mother, in Connaught Place, Hyde Park Corner. Notice of this strange elopement was instantly despatched to Her Majesty, who had a card party at Buckingham House, but which instantly broke up in consequence of an event so utterly unexpected and distressing to the parental feelings of the Queen.

Happily, however, the royal fugitive was soon convinced of the error which she had committed; and at three in the morning she was restored to the arms of her father at Carlton House.

While the public mind was agitated on account of this singular affair, and every imagination was exercised in wild conjectures respecting the cause of it, another occasion of surprize and rumour arose in the avowed declaration of the Princess of Wales to withdraw from the kingdom. No obstacle was thrown in the way of this design on the part of government; and every thing that her royal highness could reasonably expect was readily granted by the Regent, who was, however, most ungenerously reproached in a letter which the princess left behind her for publication, "as her most inveterate enemy, imposed upon by false accusers, and enemies to her honour."

It is painful even to recur to these circumstances; but as they must necessarily form a part of the national history, the interest of truth requires it to be told, that the princess had no enemies but those who were immediately in her confidence and about her person; that whatever trouble she suffered, was brought upon herself by connexions which she should have avoided, and an impetuous spirit that it became her to have governed, instead of letting it loose to the annoyance of the peace of her illustrious and forbearing relatives.

No people upon earth are more easily led away by their feelings than the English; and thus it is, that ninety-nine times in a hundred they are the dupes of their credulity. The most extravagant tale of woe moves their sympathy to the profuseness of liberality, and an inflammatory speech of invective at once rouses their indignation to an excess of violence. In neither case do they stop to enquire into the reality of the stories which operate upon their passions, whence it frequently happens that their pity is as unmerited as their resentment is unjust. But popularity conferred by faction is of short duration, and censure proceeding from ignorance is unworthy of a wise man's concern.

Though the departure of the Princess of Wales was a grievous disappointment to the stirrers of mischief, and the zealots of party, it was a measure of great public benefit, by giving the people an opportunity of calming their temper and correcting their judgment.

To commemorate the splendid events of this wonderful year, it was resolved to celebrate a grand national jubilee; and the first of August, as being the centenary of the accession of the Brunswick family, and the day also distinguished by the battle of the Nile, was most appropriately selected for that purpose. The early part of the morning appeared very inauspicious to the wishes of the anxious inhabitants of the metropolis, but towards

noon the sun shone out in all his glory, and in every direction crowds were seen hastening towards the seat of attraction in the three parks.

On this occasion Her Majesty invited the Regent and two hundred and fifty persons of the first distinction to dinner at Buckingham House. After the exhibition of a naval engagement on the Serpentine, a curious entertainment was presented to the admiring spectators in a display of fire-works on the water, representing a variety of shifting figures, the Protean forms and velocity of which delighted the beholders. But the Green Park, in which was the royal booth, was the principal object of attraction, by having a castellated temple, with a Chinese bridge thrown over Constitution Hill. Here also a balloon was prepared, and completely filled by six o'clock; but the ascension was delayed a few minutes that the Queen and the princesses might witness the spectacle. As soon as it was dark, the bridge and royal booth were illuminated; soon after which a discharge of artillery announced the commencement of the fire-works, which were on the grandest scale ever witnessed. This was the triumph of the pyrotechnic art, and combined all that the imagination could possibly conceive of the sublime and beautiful, in tremendous effect, and vivid representation. From the battlements of the castle a number of rockets were sent up, and at the same moment the walls exhibited a wonder-

ful variety of brilliant ornaments. Each rocket contained several smaller ones, which at a great height shot out innumerable glittering stars, that threw an air of enchantment over the trees and lawns beneath. These rockets then burst, when a shower of fiery light descended to the earth, and extended over a considerable space of ground. After this, the fortress changed suddenly into the Temple of Concord, moving upon an axis, and displaying a number of allegorical transparencies suited to the occasion.

St. James's Park had all the appearance of Vauxhall on a full night. Over the Canal was erected a bridge, elegantly ornamented with temples and pillars, surmounted by a lofty pagoda. Along the sides of the Canal numerous tents were pitched, and on its bosom floated several wherries. About ten o'clock, the bridge and its towering superstructure became an object of singular beauty, and the whole had the appearance of an edifice of golden fire. Every part of it was covered with lamps, the glass reflectors in proper places relieving the dazzling splendour with their silver lustre; the canopies of the temple throwing up wheels and stars, the pillars covered with radiant light, every rising tower sending forth showers of flame, while from the lofty summit of the pagoda rockets ascended in majestic flights, and with inconceivable rapidity. The effect of this combination of light on the water

which flowed beneath, and on the verdant foliage of the surrounding trees, as well as on the scattered tents, and moving groups on the lawn, surpassed all power of description.

But this scene of magnificent amusement ended tragically; and about midnight the pagoda exhibited an appearance that soon converted the pleasure of the spectators into alarm. The upper towers were enveloped in a sheet of flame, which resisted all the efforts employed to extinguish it, and in a short space the splendid structure was destroyed. The catastrophe was much lamented by those who admired the elegance of the building as a work of taste; but this disaster was nothing, when compared to the loss of two lives, and the injury sustained by several other persons who were employed upon the works.

On the seventh of January, 1815, the queen gave a grand entertainment at Frogmore, in honour of the Princess Charlotte, who then completed her nineteenth year; and shortly afterwards Her Majesty's birth-day was celebrated at the same place in a similar manner with a concert, in which her royal highness performed some difficult pieces of music on the grand-piano to admiration. On the eighteenth of May a drawing-room was held at Buckingham House, which, on account of its being the first since the departure of the allied sovereigns, and, above all, as it was known that the Princess

Charlotte would be there, attracted a numerous assemblage of the nobility and gentry. At the end of the same month the princess gave her first entertainment at Carlton House, which was attended by all the female branches of the family, and a large party of friends, who were delighted with the harmony that breathed throughout the British court, and the pleasing prospect which it gave of increasing felicity, little dreaming, while they contemplated the gaiety of the scene, that she, who now irradiated the circle, and inspired all hearts with joy, would in a short space be shrouded in darkness.

Sic stella noctu, per liquidum æthera,
Sublimis, ardens, conspicitur polo
Flammas coruscans; mox, repentè
Lapsa, petit peritura terras.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Return of Buonaparte.—Battle of Waterloo.—Feelings of the Queen.—Marriage of the Duke of Cumberland.—Letter of Her Majesty to the Duke of Mecklenburg.—Justification of her subsequent Conduct towards the Duchess.—Anecdote of the Queen.

WHILE England, in common with the other powers of Europe, was celebrating the restoration of peace, and devising measures for the security of that inestimable blessing, the disturber of the world, instead of being thankful for the superabundant liberality which he had experienced, and endeavouring to atone by his conduct for the miseries he had produced, was scheming to renew the horrors of war. Alike callous to the sufferings of humanity, the compunctions of conscience, and the sense of honour, he returned with the malice of a dæmon, determined upon dominion, though aware that in gaining it he must pass through an ocean of blood. The crisis was fearful; and they whose hopes were the strongest in favour of justice could not conceal their apprehensions. The fate of successive generations appeared to be suspended on a

single thread, and all who had the happiness of their fellow creatures at heart watched the issue with intense anxiety.

Her Majesty, though naturally of a cheerful temperament, and disciplined by religious principle to a spirit of resigned submission to the divine will, in all things, could not but feel a deep concern for the result of the eventful scene which was then passing before an astonished world.

Happily, however, the trial of fortitude was short; and the deliverance of mankind was effected by a single stroke, so rapid, tremendous, and decisive, as to remind the serious observer of the prophetic triumph over the tyrant of Babylon: "How art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground which didst weaken the nations! They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, 'is this the man that did make the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; that made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof?"

This was, indeed, a season for thankfulness, and as such the Queen considered it, whose contemplative mind always gathered from the scenes which excited the wonder of the multitude matter of confidence in the dispensations of Providence. Conformably to this principle, she studiously regulated her own actions by a conscientious attention

to the rule of moral obligation; without suffering the sense of duty to be compromised by motives of policy or the power of persuasion. Of this firmness an instance occurred at the present period, on the marriage of the Duke of Cumberland with his cousin the Princess of Salms Braunfels, daughter of the reigning Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz. A considerable time before this alliance was entered into, the Duke of Cambridge, with the consent of their majesties, offered his hand to the princess, who accepted the proposal; and matters went so far that the great seal was even put to the royal assent, when suddenly, to the regret of the Queen, the contract was broken off, owing, as Her Majesty then understood, to some objections raised against the marriage by the Princess of Salms, who had conceived an affection for the Duke of Cumberland. Not being made acquainted with further particulars, and far from suspecting that the King had concealed any thing out of regard to her feelings, the Queen was induced afterwards to sanction the proposed union between her other son and the princess her niece, to whom she wrote some letters for the regulation of their conduct, and one also on the subject to her brother, the duke, of which the following is a translation:

Windsor, October the 10th, 1814.

I can scarcely find words sufficiently strong to express to you the joy I felt on receiving your letter, with which my son's messenger was charged. The excuses you make respecting your long silence, my dear friend, are superfluous, knowing, as I do, that the waters of Pyrmont will not allow of any application whatever, and as I agree with you that the Princess of Salms could not, on this occasion, foresee that you would not write. Thus, then, this union is near its conclusion. God grant that the brilliant perspective which both have formed may be realized; in the result of which, the age of both authorizes the most flattering hopes, and in which the character you trace of your daughter gives me the greatest confidence. You may be assured, my dear brother, that I shall endeavour to render the residence of the Princess of Salms amongst us as pleasant and agreeable as circumstances will permit, considering that my sedentary life prevents me from contributing to the amusement of the princess, and that the greater part of my time is passed in the country, where our society is very limited, and our life uniform. She will, however, be always a welcome guest when she comes; and we shall endeavour, my daughters and myself, to do our best to entertain her. I have written to my son, the Duke of Cumberland, my ideas relative to the children of Salms. I thought this necessary, to correct a mis-

understanding which had taken place on both sides. I endeavoured, to the utmost of my power, to convince him how necessary it was to observe the precautions which I suggested. The desire of preventing inconveniencies in future to both parties induced me take this step.

As I have reason to believe that paternal advice will have a salutary influence on your daughter, I think I may confide to you what will be essential for the princess on her arrival here. The usages of this country being so different from what they are on the continent, in every respect, I fear that my son may not be sufficiently attentive to them. As this is for you alone, I confide to you, that it is not the fashion here to receive morning visits from gentlemen, to which she will be exposed, by the circumstance of the Duke being colonel of a regiment, unless he himself introduces them to her: she should also be very circumspect in the choice of ladies with whom she shall associate, which will be so much the more necessary, as the Duke has acquaintance amongst our sex, who, although not actually of bad conduct, might, however, become injurious to her in point of policy. I have found that the advice of the dear King, "of being uniformly polite to every one, of doing nothing in the spirit of party, and of adhering closely to his family," has been my surest guidance during my long residence here; and I think I cannot do better than to

transmit those sentiments to you, dear brother and friend, as father to my niece and future daughter-in-law, which you will make use of in such a manner as you shall judge proper.

I have sent by the messenger six pounds of tea and two cheeses; eat the latter to my health; and in drinking the tea, remember a sister whose attachment for you will not cease but with death.

Sir, my dearest brother,

Your very affectionate sister and faithful friend,

CHARLOTTE.

When this letter was written, the Queen had no reason to believe that the proposed measure would have been at all disagreeable to the King, were he then in a capacity to act as a father and a sovereign. On the contrary, she was fully persuaded that in giving her assent to the alliance she only did that which he would have done himself, and to which he would give his entire approbation in the event of his recovery. Shortly afterwards, however, she was undeceived, and more than one of her nearest relatives communicated information, which, as it convinced her of the tender affection manifested by the dear king for her feelings, pointed out directly the course which she had to pursue in a dutiful attention to his. Her Majesty's situation was painfully distressing; but she could not endure the thought of wounding that mind which was always ready to

make sacrifices for her tranquillity, and of which the present instance was a striking proof.

Her feelings on this occasion were communicated without delay to the Regent, in a personal conference, in order that the Duke of Cumberland might be early apprised of the change which had taken place in Her Majesty's sentiments, and of her fixed resolution never to receive the princess at the English court. After this explicit declaration, accompanied as it was by a statement of the reasons on which the resolution was founded, the Queen did not expect that the marriage would have taken place. Notwithstanding this, the ceremony was performed with great pomp in the church of Strelitz, on the twenty-ninth of May following; and at the end of the summer, the royal couple, together with the Duke of Mecklenburg, arrived in England, where the marriage was renewed, conformably to act of parliament, at Carlton House, though neither Her Majesty nor any of the princesses honoured the nuptials with their presence. With the same firmness the Queen resisted every attempt made to shake the determination which she had formed of excluding the duchess from her court. Her reply to every remonstrance and importunity was uniform and consistent: "I cannot do that in the present state of the King, which I would not venture to do in opposition to his judgment."

This answer, so decidedly characteristic of a noble mind, alive only to the sense of duty, renders all further observation on the subject superfluous, and any notice of the calumnies that were industriously circulated on the occasion perfectly unnecessary.

At this time the Queen and her daughters resided wholly at Windsor, where they received their foreign visitors, as well as other friends, in a very hospitable though private manner. One fine day in the autumn, Her Majesty invited several of the nobility to accompany her and three of the princesses on a fishing party, to the Virginia Water, where tents were erected for their accommodation. Just after dinner the young ladies of the boarding-school at Egham House happening to pass by, the Queen affably desired them to approach and take some refreshment, kindly noticed each individually, and retained all of them some hours, during which the band played, while fifteen couple danced on the shaded lawn.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

State of the King's Health.—Anecdote.—Arrival of Prince Leopold.—Fête at Frogmore.—Marriage of the Princess Charlotte.—Queen's Drawing-Room.—Ascot Races.—Anecdote.—Marriage of the Princess Mary.—Death of the Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

THOUGH the mental disease of His Majesty was now so completely decided as to preclude all hope of recovery, it was a consolation to find that his general health was unimpaired; and that amidst the wanderings of a disordered imagination, his feelings were not worked up to a paroxysm of suffering by the constant pressure of any ideal evil. For some time, indeed, the sense of regal dignity, the natural result of long habit, made him occasionally impatient, but this gradually subsided; and although the consciousness of what he was could not be entirely obliterated, it ceased to produce any violent effects.

About the present period, the image of royalty began to fade away altogether; and as the sensory could receive nothing new to fill up the vacuity, the strange, but certainly not incongruous, persuasion followed, that death had closed the scene here below; and accordingly, one day, the King, under

that conviction, told his attendant to provide for him a full suit of black, there being, he said, a general mourning for George the Third.

From that moment the illusion operated with greater force, till it settled in a complete belief: but though the idea that disanimation had taken place became thus irrevocably fixed, it was neither attended with personal neglect, an abstraction from amusement, nor a forgetfulness of favourite objects. While the mind, to its own perceptibility, was thus removed into another sphere, the same associations continued to cheer and exercise the thoughts that had afforded delight in former days. Thus, a new world was in a manner created, peopled with recollected connexions, and stored with imaginary prospects, which, by inducing application, and exercising the fancy, saved the royal patient from suffering through excessive irritability, or falling into a gloomy despondency.

Under all the circumstances, therefore, this might be considered as a state which called for thankfulness, and in that light it was viewed by the Queen, to whom Dr. John Willis made a report every morning after breakfast; when, if it was deemed adviseable, Her Majesty accompanied the physician down a private staircase into the apartment occupied by the King, with whom she sometimes entered into conversation, no other person being allowed that privilege.

From this awful spectacle of a noble intellect, reduced like a magnificent temple to ruins, and yet commanding veneration in its desolated state, we must now turn our attention to a scene of life and gaiety, where the effervescence of joy overcomes every other sentiment; and no one that takes a part in the general gladness dreams of the day of darkness to which it leads.

Under the peculiar circumstances of the royal family, the national hopes were centered in the Princess Charlotte, for whose settlement and happiness the people felt so warm an interest, that much concern was expressed when the rupture of the projected union between her royal highness and the hereditary Prince of Orange was announced. The popular sentiment was certainly in favour of that alliance on many accounts, particularly as it was known to be a favourite measure of their majesties; and because the prince, from his having been wholly educated in this country, was considered as an Englishman. Nor was it ever suspected that the princess herself had any objection to the Prince of Orange, up to the arrival of the allied sovereigns, when it was discovered that her mind had taken an unaccountable impulse in opposition to the marriage; and her resolution being decidedly expressed, the negotiation ended.

Much as the heads of the family regretted this disappointment of their wishes, they were too liberal

to attempt, even by remonstrance, the effecting any alteration in the sentiments of the princess: and when afterwards it was discovered that she had placed her affections upon the young Prince of Saxe Cobourg, who happened to have visited England just at that critical period, every thing was done to meet her inclinations.

Accordingly, on the twenty-first of February, 1816, this favoured youth landed at Dover, and the day following proceeded to Brighton, where Her Majesty, with the Princesses Elizabeth and Mary, were then on a visit to the Regent and his daughter. The reception of the prince was most cordial on every side; and on the fifth of the following month the Queen and princesses returned to Windsor to make preparations for the approaching nuptials, which, however, did not take place as soon as was expected, owing to the time necessarily occupied in the settlement of preliminaries, and the severe illness of Prince Leopold, who was confined at Brighton till the middle of April. On the twenty-sixth of that month, being the birth-day of the Princess Mary, the Queen gave a grand entertainment at Frogmore, where the Prince Regent was received by his royal daughter, the Prince of Saxe Cobourg, and several members of the family, attended by a numerous party of the nobility who had been invited to dine with Her Majesty on this occasion. In the evening the Regent returned to

London; and three days afterwards the rest of the family followed, to be in readiness for the nuptials; the Princess Charlotte going to Carlton House, Prince Leopold to the apartments of the Duke of Clarence in St. James's Palace, and Her Majesty, with the princesses, to Buckingham House, where the next day, being the thirtieth, a drawing-room was held according to etiquette, for the purpose of giving the young prince a formal reception at the British court; and there he met his intended bride. The same evening the nuptial dresses were exhibited to the Queen, the Regent, and the princesses, all of whom made splendid presents on the joyful occasion to their illustrious relative.

At length the second of May, the day appointed for the celebration of the marriage, arrived; and public curiosity having been long excited to an event of so much national interest, the neighbourhood of the court was early thronged with impatient multitudes.

At four o'clock, the Princess Charlotte went in a carriage to the Queen's palace, to dine with Her Majesty and the princesses; but the crowd was so great in Pall-Mall, that the coachman found it necessary to return, and drive through the Park.

At about half-past seven, the royal party set off for Carlton House, the Queen, the Princess Charlotte, the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, in one carriage, and the Princesses Mary and Sophia of

Gloucester in another, escorted by a troop of the Life Guards, the populace cheering them all the way. The royal family, the Duke and Duchess of Orleans, and Prince Leopold, were conducted to the royal closet, where they continued while the attendants were busied in the necessary arrangements.

All things being in readiness for the procession, Her Majesty left the closet, and moved with her attendants to the great crimson room, which was fitted up for the ceremony, and on her entrance the Prince Regent handed her to a state chair on the right side of the altar.

The whole company being assembled, the Lord Chamberlain first conducted Prince Leopold to the altar; and next the Princess Charlotte, supported on the arm of the Duke of Clarence. The marriage ceremony was then read by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and at the conclusion, the princess, after embracing her royal parent, went and respectfully kissed the Queen's hand. The new-married couple and their august relatives then returned to the private closet; soon after which the former left the palace for Oatlands; but the Queen and the Regent, with the princesses and the royal dukes, passed into the grand council chamber, where they received the congratulations of the assembled nobility.

On the sixteenth of the same month, Her Majesty held a drawing-room at Buckingham House,

which was crowded to excess; and though it had been stated that the court would not begin till the hour of two, the company began to assemble as early as twelve. The line of carriages at one time extended from the palace to the end of Oxford Street; and many of the nobility who resided in the neighbourhood of St. James's Square were under the necessity of driving in that direction to fall into the rank.

The royal pair came to the palace a little before two; and precisely at that hour the Queen and princesses entered the drawing-room, followed by their respective suites. Her Majesty having taken her usual station, the ceremony commenced, the company first addressing the Queen with their congratulations, and then passing on to the Princess Charlotte and her spouse.

The exterior of Buckingham House, as well as the interior, had the most brilliant appearance; for as the company, after having paid their respects in the drawing-room, could not leave the palace till their carriages drew up, which they were prevented from doing for a considerable time, the windows were filled with elegant women, while many persons of the first distinction, as bishops, judges, naval and military officers, with ladies and gentlemen in their splendid dresses, promenaded the court-yard and grass-plat.

At about three o'clock there was a complete ces-

sation of progress, and the whole of the long passage to the great hall was filled by a crowd of persons of fashion, standing as close to each other as they possibly could. At last, when this splendid group came within a few feet of the door, no farther advance could be made, till an adjacent apartment was opened, which restored something like order; and then the company began to move towards the drawing-room; but soon afterwards there was a fresh check, and it became necessary to open another apartment. On going away, many of those who were near the door remained stationary above an hour before their carriages could possibly get up; and if the weather had not permitted the lawn to be resorted to, there must have been numerous faintings: but, as it was, nothing was exhausted except patience.

When the court broke up, which was not till six o'clock, the Regent remained and took a family-dinner with the Queen, and the Princesses Elizabeth and Mary; the Princesses Augusta and Sophia being at Windsor, the former in attendance on her father, and the latter confined by indisposition.

Though Her Majesty had now exceeded the ordinary period of human life, she continued to discharge the duties of her high station with great alacrity, and appeared to take uncommon delight in the amusements of the people. At the beginning of June, accompanied by three of her daugh-

ters, and the Princess Sophia of Gloucester, she went to Ascot races. As the royal intention had been previously announced, the course was thronged with genteel people; and many came from a considerable distance, drawn thither by the general expectation that the Princess Charlotte and the Prince of Cobourg would also have been present. In this, however, they were disappointed, owing to the indisposition of the princess, which, though not serious, prevented her from gratifying the curiosity of the public.

As early as five in the morning the post-road from the metropolis, as well as the cross ones leading from the populous villages and towns in the neighbourhood, were covered with vehicles, horsemen, and pedestrians, hurrying to the promised scene of pleasure. In Windsor Park there was at one time a continued line of carriages, extending for three miles. At a quarter before one, Her Majesty and the princesses, with their attendants, arrived in two carriages on the race-course, where they were received by the Duke of Gloucester and the Marquis Cornwallis as the stewards of the meeting. The liveliness of the scene, and the excellence of the sport, afforded much pleasure to the royal party; and indeed a gayer spectacle could scarcely be imagined. The weather was fine, and the sun shone out in all his brightness. On one side of the course, extending nearly a mile in a straight line, was a row of lofty stands, filled with

ladies and gentlemen elegantly dressed; and at the extremity were suttling-booths, with shops, shows, and other attractions. On the right and opposite side were arranged about three hundred carriages filled with spectators. In the middle, between these lines, and during the interval of the races, countless numbers of both sexes promenaded on the green-sward, which gave to the whole an appearance of hilarity that had a very fine effect; and even royalty itself was not exempt from its influence.

During the performances of the musical band, Her Majesty, with a cheerfulness which youth might have envied, beat time with her foot, while more than one of the princesses, by the motion of their hands, seemed, in imagination at least, to accompany the minstrels on the piano.

A little incident also occurred, which evinced the kind feeling of the royal party, and their willingness, by condescending courtesy, to reward the humblest efforts that were made to afford them entertainment. An itinerant shewman, whose livelihood consisted in exhibiting three dancing puppets on a circular board, placed himself in front of the royal stand; and though the people around him turned away with contempt, he continued his performance in the hope of attracting the notice of Her Majesty, which at last he was fortunate enough to obtain; for his grotesque figures happening to

catch the eye of the Princess Mary, she whispered to the Queen, who perceiving his object, deigned to look, and appeared pleased with the amusement. The effect of this attention was almost electrical; and the very persons who a few moments before despised the entertainment, as they passed along, now pressed as near as they could to become spectators: so that the poor fellow was for some time encircled by a crowd of lords and ladies, who applauded his performance, and rewarded him bountifully, in mere imitation of the royal example.

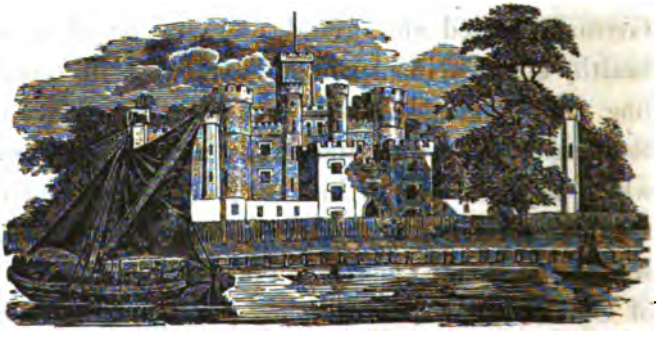
This humourous scene lasted about half an hour; after which, the royal party drove down to the bottom of the course, where two splendid marquees were pitched, and abundance of refreshments provided for their accommodation.

On the twenty-second of the following month, the long-expected marriage of the Princess Mary and the Duke of Gloucester took place in the grand saloon at Buckingham House, when a numerous assembly of the royal family and various persons of distinction were present. About nine o'clock in the evening the Queen took her station on the left side of the altar in a state chair; the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, the Duchess of York, and the Princess Sophia of Gloucester, being on her left; while on the opposite side stood the Prince Regent and his royal brothers. The Duke of Cambridge intro-

duced the bride, and presented her to the Regent, who gave her away in marriage. At the conclusion of the ceremony the royal family retired to the Queen's apartments; and in the mean time a profusion of refreshments was served round to the company, among whom Her Majesty soon re-appeared to receive their congratulations.

The remainder of this summer passed without any thing remarkable; but at the end of the year Her Majesty received the tidings of the death of her brother, the Grand Duke Charles-Louis-Frederick of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. This news was the more distressing, as the preceding accounts from Germany stated the grand duke to be in good health, after having spent some months in travelling. But on the sixth of November, about five in the morning, he was attacked by a fit of apoplexy, which deprived him of his faculties; and at four in the afternoon he expired in the presence of his second son, Duke Charles. He was born the tenth of October, 1741, lived many years in the Hanoverian service, and in 1794 succeeded his brother in the ducal honours and estates. The sovereignty which the extorted Rhenish confederacy guaranteed to him he did not exercise to the oppression of his subjects; and upon the liberation of the continent he obtained the dignity of grand duke. He was twice married, and to two sisters of the House of Darmstadt. By the first alliance he left four chil-

dren; namely, his successor, the Grand Duke George-Frederick-Charles, born in 1779, and the wives of the Duke of Hildburghausen, the Prince of Tour and Taxis, and the Duke of Cumberland. By the second marriage he left one son, Duke Charles-Frederick-Augustus.



CHAPTER XXIX.

State of Her Majesty's Health.—Spasmodic Attack.—Recovery.—Eton Montem.—Entertainment at Frogmore.—Case of the Reverend Mr. Roper.—Royal Visit to Bath.—Death of the Princess Charlotte.—Its Effects on the Queen, who returns to Windsor.—Calumny refuted.—Reflections on that Event.

THOUGH the infirmities of age were now perceptible, Her Majesty's habitual equanimity of temper, and general liveliness of spirits, prevented them from being burthensome to herself, or irksome to others, for which this reason was alleged by herself, that she hardly knew what tedium was, every minute in the day being regularly occupied. This was the constant antidote to the cares and troubles of which the Queen had no common share for a person in her high station. The recent death of her brother, and the attack upon her son in his return from the House of Lords on the twenty-eighth of January, 1817, gave her considerable uneasiness, and had a visible effect upon her health. No alarming symptoms, however, were indicated till the twenty-second of April, when preparations were making for a drawing-room to be held on the

morrow, being St. George's Day. In the course of the night Her Majesty was seized with a spasmodic affection, which rendered a consultation of physicians necessary, and the following bulletin was issued:—"The Queen has had a cold, attended by some fever, and pain in the side: Her Majesty found the pain severe in the night, but it is much abated this morning." Though there was too much reason to apprehend that an important viscus was the seat of disease, such was the excellence of Her Majesty's constitution, and the attention of the physicians, that she recovered from this attack; and on the twenty-sixth of the same month her convalescence was officially announced. Still it was deemed adviseable that she should forbear the fatigue necessarily attendant upon the ceremonies of a drawing-room, at least for some time; and public notice to that effect was accordingly circulated.

On the twenty-seventh of May, Her Majesty, the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, with their attendants, went to Eton College to be present at the Montem, a festival which had frequently before been honoured by royal visits. Soon afterwards the Prince Regent arrived from London; and in a short time the procession began to move, according to the accustomed form, preceded by the bands of the Guards, amidst the greatest assemblage of beauty and fashion that had been known on a similar occasion for many years.

As the young gentlemen passed along, they received the usual gratuities, under the name of Salt, from all the spectators; the sum so collected amounting to somewhat more than seven hundred pounds, being an outfit for the captain of the school, then elected off to the university.

On the following day, the scholars, in their montem dresses, headed by their tutors, went in procession to Frogmore, where they partook of an elegant entertainment in the gardens, in the presence of the Queen, and a numerous party of Her Majesty's friends, who were invited to the pleasing scene.

On the eighteenth of August, Her Majesty, the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, Princess Sophia of Gloucester, with several persons of distinction, paid a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough at White Knights, in Berkshire. The royal party arrived about noon, and after taking refreshment, proceeded in open carriages round the gardens and pleasure-grounds of this delightful place. The day, though cloudy, was pleasant; and the park and lawn were rendered very lively by groups of company from Reading, and other places in the neighbourhood. The duke's band of music was stationed in the woods; and every thing was done that could add to the enjoyment of the scene; but the extent of the grounds occupying much time in

traversing, the rain began to fall before the royal visitants could complete their excursion, which circumstance obliged them to return to the mansion sooner than they intended, where they were ushered to a splendid collation, in which magnificence and hospitality were combined for their entertainment.

A striking instance of amiable condescension and genuine goodness of heart occurred some time after this in the case of Mr. Roper, one of the minor canons of Windsor. Her Majesty being informed that this worthy divine was seized with a pulmonic complaint, which rendered him incapable of discharging his public duties, ordered that he should be attended by the royal physicians, and supplied twice a-day with every thing necessary from the castle. His malady, however, baffled all medical skill; and what rendered the circumstance of his death painfully distressing was the state of his widow, who had lain in only a week before of her tenth child, and all living.

The Queen, immediately on hearing of the demise of Mr. Roper, sent a particular friend to console the widow, with an assurance of her protection; and the same day she opened a subscription for the family herself, beginning with five hundred pounds, the effect of which was such, that in a few hours the contributions amounted to more than two thousand. A few days afterwards, Her Majesty, though very weak, visited the house of mourning; and after

some interesting conversation with Mrs. Roper, relieved her with the promise that she would provide for her daughters, and request the Prince Regent to do the same for her sons.

This was at the end of October, just as Her Majesty was preparing for her journey to Bath, the physicians having considered her case as one that stood little chance of an alteration for the better, without the aid of the salutary springs of that celebrated place. Following this advice, the Queen, accompanied by the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Clarence, left Windsor Castle on the morning of the third of November, and the same evening reached Sydney Place, where three elegant houses had been fitted up for the reception of the royal party. The next day the Queen visited the pump-room, drank the water, and afterwards took an airing on the Downs. Never did this city, the resort of invalids and fashionable loungers, display so much bustle and gaiety. Visitors poured in from all quarters hourly; and the inhabitants, particularly the trading part, made large preparations for an active and lucrative season, little thinking how soon the cloud of public calamity would damp the ardour of expectation, and cast a gloom over all their enjoyments.

On Thursday morning, after drinking the waters, Her Majesty received an address from the corporation; and about four o'clock a messenger arrived

with despatches from Lord Sidmouth, stating that the Princess Charlotte had been delivered of a still-born male child, but that her royal highness was doing extremely well.

There cannot possibly be conceived a greater aggravation of evil tidings than that occasioned by a sudden extinction of hope after the previous removal of anxiety. Thus it was in the present instance, for though the first news was affecting, yet, as it brought an assurance of safety in regard to the state of the princess, the disappointment of other hopes was less sensibly felt.

At six o'clock, therefore, the Queen sat down, with her usual party of fourteen, to dinner, and appeared tolerably composed; but in about an hour another messenger arrived, with a despatch directed to General Taylor, who was privately called out of the room, a circumstance that struck the Queen as very extraordinary, but on which she made no remark till the Countess of Ilchester withdrew in the same abrupt manner; and then her fears realizing the cause at once, she exclaimed, "I know what is the matter;" and fell into a fit.

After some time, she was sufficiently recovered to be led into her private apartment, accompanied by the Princess Elizabeth, whose distress was not less than that of her venerable parent.

That night, and the following day, passed in silent anguish, while it seemed all around as if each indi-

vidual had been deprived of a bosom friend, and that every family had lost a near relative.

Though the royal party left Bath as early as seven on Saturday morning, they did not arrive at Windsor till six in the evening.

The next day the Prince Regent came in a very private way to see the Queen and princesses, who were soon after joined by the Duchess of Gloucester, forming a very melancholy group; yet deriving from this meeting, and the reciprocation of sorrow, something like relief under the pressure of such a heavy affliction.

From this time to the funeral, Her Majesty and the princesses remained at the castle in a state of seclusion, with the exception of about an hour every day, when, by the special direction of the physicians, they took an airing in the little park; though this was done in the most private manner possible, with no other attendant than a single footman.

The universal concern excited by this mournful event did honour to the public feelings; but the sympathy which the affecting circumstances of the case produced would have been more satisfactory had it been unmixed with prejudices, and untainted by calumny. When the people lamented the extinction of the national hopes, they should have gratefully remembered the bright example of virtue which for so long a period had enlightened the country. Of the future, no determinate judgment

could be formed; but the history of more than half a century laid an obligation upon every individual in the kingdom to think well, and speak reverently, of the august personage whose uniform conduct and purity of heart had for so long a period given unexampled dignity to the British court. Slanderers, however, rose in this hour of sorrow; and what was worse, their vile insinuations were so credulously received, and industriously circulated, that it was impossible to remove the ill impression which they produced. The most ungenerous and cruel reflections were made upon the Queen, on account of her absence at such a critical juncture; and some even went the length of saying that the journey to Bath was a measure of set purpose, that she might have a pretext for being out of the way. Now the truth is, the Queen, instead of hastening her departure, delayed it on this very account; and, notwithstanding the urgent recommendation of the physicians, she would not have gone thither till after the delivery of the princess, if her royal highness had not peremptorily declined the offer which Her Majesty made to be at Claremont on that occasion. To this wish and intention the princess not only appeared decidedly adverse, but she made it a point of seconding the advice of the medical gentlemen, by saying that she should be most unhappy if on her account the Queen protracted what was deemed so necessary for her own health.

This is a simple statement of plain facts, the verity of which it would be easy to prove by indubitable testimony; and they who best knew the princess will admit, that when on mature consideration she had once taken up her resolution, no persuasion in the world could induce her to alter it.

In the present case, the propriety of the determination cannot be questioned, for the suffering of the royal patient would have been rather heightened than abated by witnessing the anxiety of one whose age and infirmities were so ill able to bear the fatigue and wretchedness unavoidable on such occasions.

It should be observed, also, that there was nothing in the previous circumstances of the princess to give the slightest room for apprehension; but that, on the contrary, her constitutional energy afforded the strongest grounds for the confident expectation of a happy result. On this account, therefore, the shock came with redoubled force, because it was a catastrophe which no person could have dreaded.

That it was a national loss, and one which called for general sorrow, the expression of the public feeling sufficiently evinced; yet, if amidst the lamentation which it raised, the hand of Providence was not acknowledged, there may be reason to fear that this has been a stroke of the divine judgment for benefits long abused, and only the prelude to evils which a thankless people have too much deserved.

The reader of history, who traces the causes and consequences of great events, will find, in perusing the annals of this country, that there never yet occurred an instance bearing a resemblance to the present, but what was productive of incidents, the effects of which have extended to distant generations.

Thus, to name a few only: the death of Prince Arthur, the eldest son of Henry the Seventh, occasioned the abolition of the papal authority in these realms;—that of Edward the Sixth, by giving the same power a temporary revival, rendered it so odious, that Elizabeth was enabled, through a long life, and a vigorous administration, to establish the reformed church of England on a steady basis;—in the succeeding reign, the demise of Henry Prince of Wales gave the crown to his brother, the unfortunate Charles, and thus prepared the way for two revolutions;—and last of all, when the hopes of the nation rested upon the young Duke of Gloucester, the last child of Princess Anne of Denmark, his premature removal left the succession open to the House of Brunswick,—in which line of hereditary right may the throne continue to flourish, under the divine protection, till all earthly dominion shall attain its consummation!

CHAPTER XXX.

Return to Bath.—Visit to Bristol.—Female Institution at Bailbrook House.—Similar Establishments recommended.—Return to Windsor.—Marriage of the Princess Elizabeth.—Her Majesty's last Drawing-Room.—Examination of The National Schools.—The Queen taken suddenly ill.—Partial Recovery.—More Royal Marriages.—Residence at Kew.—Parliamentary Regulation.—Ineffectual Attempts to remove the Queen.—Alarming Progress of her Malady.—Painful Sufferings.—Death.—Funeral.—Conclusion.

HER MAJESTY returned to Bath at the end of November, and a few days afterwards made her promised visit to the ancient city of Bristol, which place had not received a Queen of England within its walls since Anne of Denmark, the consort of James the First. The romantic prospects in the immediate vicinity, particularly the sublime view from Clifton Hill, afforded a rich treat to Her Majesty and the Princess Elizabeth, who, notwithstanding the keenness of the air, stood for some time on the high cliff which overhangs the Avon, and contemplated with astonishment the magnificent spectacle which presented itself on every side. From hence the royal party proceeded slowly to the mansion of Colonel Baillie; and after staying

there about two hours, set off again for Bath, amidst the acclamations of thousands, who lined the road all the way between the two cities.

But neither these enjoyments, nor the virtue of Bladud's boasted springs, could renew an enfeebled constitution, or ward off the encroachments of disease. It was, however, pleasing to observe that under much weakness there was a placidity of mind, which, though it could not altogether subdue pain, had the happy effect of rendering it less acute and distressing. In all her cares and sufferings, the Queen was never at a loss for subjects to exercise her thoughts, in diligent enquiry, and benevolent attention.

While at Bath, she repeatedly visited Bailbrook House, an establishment of a very singular description, and of which she was not only the immediate patroness, but a liberal supporter. This institution, which may be denominated without any impropriety a reformed monastery, appears to have been modelled upon the plan of a society formed in the early part of the reign of Charles the First, by the excellent Mr. Nicholas Ferrar and his family, at Little Gidding, in Huntingdonshire. There are also many communities of a similar kind in the Protestant states on the continent; and the Moravians, as they are called, have long been distinguished by this species of social union.

The establishment of Bailbrook House offers a

desirable residence to ladies of respectable character, whose birth places them in the rank of gentlewomen: and the plan has been so arranged as to suit those who have but a very moderate income; while at the same time it offers accommodation to others, who, by their residence in the establishment, contribute largely towards its support: but this occasions no distinction among the inmates, for all are, in fact, equally independent of pecuniary obligation either to the public or each other. The society live together as one family; but none are admitted who have any aversion to a retired life, or who are unwilling to co-operate in promoting works of charity and piety.

The institution is principally intended for the reception of the widows and daughters of clergymen, and of officers of the army and navy. It is entirely under the auspices of ladies of the highest rank; and a fund amounting to some thousands has been already secured for its support. The Queen, who, from its incipient state, was its warm friend and zealous promoter, took great delight in looking over every part of the building; and repeatedly expressed her wish that there were more establishments of the kind in England. It deserves consideration, also, whether social institutions, constructed on a like principle, would not be equally advantageous to gentlemen in declining years, unencumbered, and of limited incomes. Certain it is,

that many persons in easy and independent circumstances become miserable for the want of agreeable companions, the reciprocation of sentiment, and a friendly stimulus to beneficial exercise.

Such a sodality, therefore, as the one here recommended, seems to be well calculated to render the downhill passage of life comfortable, by freeing the mind from the evil of inaction, which is the great bane of existence, and too often the predisposing cause of suicide.

Though it was hardly to be expected that the Queen, at her advanced age, could derive any radical benefit from the Bath waters, the malady, which had entrenched itself too deeply in the system to admit of an actual cure, was hereby suspended; and she returned to Windsor apparently with recruited strength, which constant exercise and change of scene contributed for some time to maintain. But there is nothing, however innocent and necessary, in the pursuits of eminent persons, that the evil-minded cannot turn into ridicule or reproach. Thus the tongue of scandal ascribed the excursions which Her Majesty made to Brighton, Bath, and other places, to an unbecoming gaiety of disposition, when it was sufficiently clear that health alone was the object; and that in these indulgencies it was not the love of pleasure, but the advice of medical men that was followed.

In general, as age advances the attachment to

life becomes more tenacious, especially where a long course of health has been enjoyed, and where many tender connexions exist, upon whose friendly offices the mind reposes in the remainder of its journey.

The Queen felt as most do who have reason to reflect upon the past with pleasure, and who still possess an endearing tie that gives a charm to life, even though it be worn to a state of almost imperceptible exility. The vale of years was cheered by the presence and attention of affectionate children; but there was yet another relative, who, though shut out from the world, was a world to her, and for whose sake it was her wish to live, that she might watch over him in his insulated condition, and minister such occasional comfort as the state of his mind could bear. Whenever, therefore, Her Majesty left Windsor, it was with a degree of reluctance; and on her return she invariably alighted at the entrance near the apartments of the King, to see whom, she immediately went with one of the physicians in attendance.

On the twenty-sixth of February, 1818, the Queen was enabled to undergo the fatigue of a drawing-room, at Buckingham House, which, being the first after the death of the Princess Charlotte, was very numerously attended, though it had rather a sombrous appearance.

Preparations were now making for the marriage

of the Princess Elizabeth, with the hereditary Prince of Hesse Homburg, a union that had received the sanction of Her Majesty and the Regent some months before, but was prevented from taking place in consequence of the late lamentable breach in the family. Every point being satisfactorily settled, the nuptials were celebrated at the Queen's Palace on the evening of the seventh of April, with considerable grandeur, in the presence of Her Majesty, the Duke of York, in the absence of the Prince Regent, giving away the hand of his sister.

On the twenty-third of the same month the Queen held her last drawing-room, which was excessively crowded in consequence of the recent marriage; but it was evident to all that Her Majesty made painful exertions, and sacrificed much personal ease on this occasion, to gratify her numerous visitors.

But though this was the last act of royal splendour in which the Queen engaged, it was not her last appearance in public; for on the following week she went to the Mansion House, to witness the examination of the children educated in the national schools. When the royal intention was made known to the chief magistrate, intimation was at the same time given that Her Majesty wished to enter the city in as private a manner as possible, and therefore desired that all form and

ceremony should be omitted. Every precaution, however, was adopted to preserve order in the streets through which the carriages were to pass; and the Queen expressed herself highly pleased with the reception which she had experienced in this last visit to the metropolis. There were present in the Egyptian Hall, in the presence of Her Majesty, several members of the royal family, the lord mayor, aldermen, and a great number of persons of distinction, among whom were the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London.

The Prince of Hesse Homburg stood on the left of the Queen, who was attended by the Earl of Harcourt, the Earl of Morton, and the ladies in waiting. The business commenced with the introduction of the children into the centre of the hall, consisting of between two and three hundred girls, and more than double that number of boys, making in all about one thousand of different ages. When they were all arranged, they sung a hymn, and repeated parts of the church service; after which the greater part was dismissed, and each class then introduced in succession. On a word being given, the children spelt the same, and wrote it down on their slates. They then performed arithmetical exercises in a similar manner, and read several chapters of the scriptures. The whole had a very impressive effect, and afforded much delight to Her Majesty, who conversed very

cheerfully with Mrs. Fry, the quaker, and several other ladies; as also with the clergymen who examined the children.

To the funds of the society for carrying on this noble work, the Queen presented five hundred pounds; and her example was followed by the Prince Regent, the Duke of York, and others of the family.

At this time Her Majesty appeared much better than she had been for some months past; and when the lord mayor went the next day to pay his respects at Buckingham House, he was agreeably informed, that so far from being impaired, the *health* of the Queen was improved by her visit to the city, and the pleasure which she had there received.

But this was merely one of the transient gleams which occasionally brighten up the wintry day of human life. About a week after this Her Majesty suffered a sudden and violent spasmodic attack, as she sat at dinner at the Duke of York's; in consequence of which she was confined to her room till the latter end of May, when, by the diligent attention of Sir Henry Halford, she recovered sufficiently to witness the re-marriage of the Duke of Cambridge and the Princess of Hesse. This ceremony took place at Buckingham House, on the first of June; and two days afterwards Her Majesty had to undergo the severe trial of parting from a beloved daughter, who, with the prince her

husband, left town for Brighton, there to remain a few days, that if in case the Queen should feel the separation so acutely as to have a relapse, her royal highness might return and wait the issue. Her Majesty, however, with that self-command which invariably distinguished her through life, endured the sacrifice in a manner that surprised even those who were no strangers to her habitual fortitude. The struggle, indeed, was an arduous one on both sides; and it was embittered by the afflicting consideration, that they who had scarcely lived apart for a single day, through a long course of years, would see each other's face in this world no more. Thus the Queen saw herself bereft of some of her dearest connexions, when she stood in most need of their consoling presence; and though the settlement of her children afforded satisfaction, it was under such circumstances as precluded the hope of witnessing their felicity.

Being desirous of seeing the King, and spending her last hours under the same roof with him, Her Majesty left town for Kew, that she might be nearer the object of her wishes, little thinking, that, short as the distance was, she should never behold Windsor any more.

The expected arrival of the Dukes of Clarence and Kent, with their respective brides, delayed her departure till it became impossible that she could

proceed any farther without running the risk of dying on the road.

On Sunday evening, the seventh of July, she appeared much better, and expressed an inclination to take a little excursion. Accordingly, the coach was ordered, and the Queen entered it, accompanied by the Princess Augusta, the Duchess of Gloucester, and a lady in waiting. After a ride of about an hour, Her Majesty was taken so very ill that the princesses were obliged to stop the carriage, while they endeavoured to relieve the sufferings of their revered parent. When the carriage moved again, it went at a very slow pace; and on reaching the palace, the attendants had great difficulty in conveying the Queen into the house, where she lay near a quarter of an hour in a most distressing condition.

By the sedulous attentions of the physicians, however, the royal invalid was so far recovered as to be able to sit in the saloon on the following Saturday, during the solemnization of the nuptials of the Dukes of Clarence and Kent; though she was unable to dine with the company afterwards.

Thus were the hymeneal rites performed in the anti-chamber of death; and the Queen might have said, as she contemplated the quick succession of these new relations, "they come like shadows, and so depart;" for if they did light up a momentary spark of delight in her mind, it was extinguished by

the reflection that the sensation would in a short space be obliterated for ever.

The nature of the disorder under which Her Majesty laboured was so unequivocally marked, as to admit of neither doubt nor hope. The anasarcous symptoms, indeed, had been so long apparent, and the consequences foreseen, that ministers, before the dissolution of parliament, thought it prudent to bring in a bill to amend the regency act, with respect to the custody of His Majesty's person, in case of the demise of the Queen. But though it was evident to every other person that this event could be at no great distance, the royal patient herself entertained hopes of at least a partial recovery. With the anxiety of the dove, she panted to take up her rest at Windsor; and as this was the only impatience she betrayed amidst all her sufferings, it may be truly said to have supported her under them, by having the effect of keeping her thoughts in constant exercise and buoyant expectation.

To relieve her spirits, though with little idea of being able to gratify her wishes, various mechanical contrivances were thought of for rendering the motion of a carriage perfectly easy. None of these schemes, however, were found, upon trial, to answer the principal purpose for which they were intended; but the Queen obtained some benefit from a kind of chair that ran upon cylinders, and

in which she was occasionally drawn round the gardens. A couch, constructed on similar principles, was also serviceable within doors, by the facility with which it could be moved from one room to another, and by its having a rising and falling back, which enabled Her Majesty to take repose without exertion, or the inconvenience of being shifted by her attendants.

Through the remainder of July the Queen suffered very much from frequent paroxysms, which exhausted her strength, destroyed the appetite, and deprived her of the refreshment of sleep.

At the beginning of August she seemed to be somewhat better, and continued for about a fortnight to improve in such a manner, as to excite some hopes that she would recover sufficiently to bear a removal to Windsor: but these were mere illusory appearances, which soon vanished; and before the expiration of the month, the spasmodic attacks came on again with renewed violence, each leaving the royal sufferer in a state of complete exhaustion and debility. This warfare in the system, between a constitution naturally excellent, and a complication of ailments, springing from one diseased organ, went on without abatement till the end of September, when the malady once more subsided, through the skill and exertions of the physicians; and Her Majesty was again enabled to bear a removal from the bed-chamber to the

adjoining room, where she resumed something like regular meals, and saw a few select visitors.

The arrival of General Campbell, with letters from the Prince and Princess of Hesse Homburg, contributed much to this temporary recovery, which, however, was of short duration; for, on Monday evening, the nineteenth of October, the Queen became extremely restless, with a considerable degree of fever; and in the course of the night the spasmodic attacks were rapid and excruciating. Throughout the whole of the next day she suffered exceedingly from a painful tension in the right side, accompanied by a short hectic cough; and the night passed without any sleep. On Wednesday the virulent symptoms increased, and another sleepless night followed; but about noon on Thursday the paroxysms abated in some degree, and Her Majesty sunk into a state of lethargic repose. The two succeeding days went over without any severe attack, and some relief was procured by the application of the warm bath to the extremities; but it was manifest that nothing more could be done than to alleviate the sufferings of the royal patient as much as possible, and to blunt the acuteness of the shaft of death. Hence, opiates were administered to induce repose; and cordials were copiously given to keep up the animal strength. The crisis, however, was fast approaching, and the only wonder was how it could have been so long protracted,

under the many sharp and tremendous conflicts which the royal patient had endured. In an early stage of Her Majesty's illness, one of the physicians gave it as his private opinion that she would not outlive the first week in November; and at the period predicted the disorder assumed an aspect of deadly malignity, that evinced the correctness of his judgment. On the night of the fifth, a great alteration took place; and the fits of coughing were so violent, that the medical attendants thought the termination of Her Majesty's sufferings was at hand. The Prince Regent, who had been dining with his sisters on that day, did not, in consequence, leave the palace till a considerable time after midnight, when the irritation had somewhat subsided by repeated applications of the warm bath and topical fomentations. Throughout the remainder of the night, however, and the whole of the next day, the sufferings of the Queen were extremely distressing; and though, by the free use of opiates, a little temporary slumber was obtained, nothing like an alleviation of pain could be procured. Thus, the malady went on from day to day with increasing virulence; and whatever alteration occurred in the progress of it only aggravated the afflictions of the sufferer, who might have adopted the language of the patriarch: "I am made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed unto me: When I lie down, I say, when shall I arise,

and the night be gone? And I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day." But if the Queen was made to mourn, like Job, she had also that spirit of meekness which enabled her to bear the heavy trial without murmuring; and through the whole of this severe visitation not one complaining word ever escaped her lips. Here patience had its perfect work; and the triumph of faith was never more strongly displayed during a long and excruciating illness than it was in the present instance. This was not stoical apathy, but pious resignation to the divine will; and as from early youth Her Majesty had studied the principles and practised the duties of religion, she now abundantly experienced the power of its consolations in the hour of need. Next to the support derived from the promises of the gospel, on which she relied with unshaken confidence, the Queen received the greatest comfort from the unremitted attentions of her children. Nothing could exceed the filial tenderness and unwearied exertions of the Princesses Augusta and Mary, who ministered day and night by the couch of their afflicted parent; nor did either of them once leave the palace during the whole mournful period of care and sorrow.

The Prince Regent also was equally affectionate, devoting as much time as he possibly could to the same pious duty; and when he was necessarily absent from Kew, messengers waited upon him

hourly with a report of the state of Her Majesty. All indeed that could be done by sympathy or solicitude, watchfulness and obedience, was readily and anxiously performed, to ameliorate the sufferings of the royal patient, who, on her part, feelingly expressed her sense of the affectionate kindness with which she was treated by the whole of her family.

But while on every countenance the look of cloudy apprehension was strongly marked, that of the royal sufferer displayed uncommon serenity, and even cheerfulness.

When the lethargic symptoms disappeared, her mind seemed to rise above bodily pain; and the powers of conversation were renewed with an energy that surprised all her friends and attendants. The most extraordinary thing of all, however, was the persuasion which prevailed in Her Majesty's thoughts almost to the very last that she should yet recover, and once more have the satisfaction of seeing the King. This was the cord which kept its firm hold upon life, when every hour gave fresh indications of dissolution. Amidst convulsive pangs, and the difficulty of finding rest, in a frame worn out by disease, the mind continually pointed in one direction, though the object of attraction was in a state of desolation and darkness. As long as this hope tended to cheer the spirits, it met with no discouragement; but when, from certain gan-

grenous appearances, it became evident that the last scene was near at hand, Her Majesty received the respectful suggestion that it would be proper to delay no longer the final settlement of her temporal affairs. This was only the day before her death; but though at first somewhat shocked by the intimation, she betrayed no symptoms of impatience. On the contrary, she immediately dictated her will to General Taylor; and having signed and delivered the instrument in due form, she calmly resigned herself to the approaching event. In the afternoon she sunk into a lethargic state; and so little was any immediate change expected, that at six o'clock Sir Henry Halford's carriage was ordered to convey him on his usual visit to Windsor. Scarcely, however, had the carriage drawn up to the door, when Her Majesty manifested such an increase of perturbation, as induced him to delay his departure; and soon afterwards the journey was put off for the night. Letters were in consequence despatched to the Prince Regent, who, accompanied by the Duke of York, arrived at the palace about ten o'clock; and after a short interview with the physicians, their royal highnesses, with the princesses, went into the sick chamber to see their august parent, who, however, was unconscious of their presence. From that hour till midnight the symptoms of the disorder developed themselves in such alarming succession, that the

Regent determined to spend the night at Kew, which design he abandoned on finding that an abatement of suffering had taken place; and he returned with his brother to town. They had not been long gone before a fresh attack came on; and throughout the remainder of the night the Queen was almost in continual agony; the physicians, with Mr. Brande, remaining in the anti-chamber, and the princesses in the room with their parent, till the morning was far advanced.

At half-past nine, on Tuesday the seventeenth, the bulletin was forwarded to town in the customary manner; but the bearer had not left the palace more than three quarters of an hour, when Her Majesty became so much worse, that a second messenger was hastened to Carlton House, to request the immediate attendance of the Prince. Couriers were also sent off to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and several other persons whose presence was desirable; and every thing plainly indicated the immediate approach of the last awful crisis.

The Prince Regent and the Duke of York reached the palace a little after twelve o'clock; and immediately on their arrival Sir Henry Halford announced to them and their illustrious sisters the speedy termination of all their affectionate cares, which operated very powerfully upon their feelings, though for several weeks they had been fully prepared for

the catastrophe. Their royal highnesses then moved into the chamber of death, and surrounded the bed on which their venerable parent lay reclined; soon after which she became conscious of their presence, held out her hand to the Prince, and while in the act of grasping his, and smiling upon them all, exactly at twenty minutes past one, without a sigh or a struggle, she breathed her last, thus experiencing, after the most arduous trials and perilous conflicts, at the end of her course,

A death-like sleep,
A gentle wafting to immortal life.

The same evening a special gazette, supplementary to the regular one, was published in the following words:

Whitehall, Nov. 17.

"This day, at one o'clock, the QUEEN departed this life, to the inexpressible grief of the royal family, after a tedious illness, which Her MAJESTY bore with the most pious fortitude and resignation. The many great and exemplary virtues which so eminently distinguished Her MAJESTY throughout her long life were the object of universal esteem and admiration amongst all classes of His MAJESTY's subjects, and render the death of this illustrious and most excellent princess an unspeakable loss to the whole nation."

On Tuesday, the first of December, the ceremony of lying-in-state took place, though on a contracted scale; and the next day the mortal remains of Her Majesty were deposited in the royal sepulchre at Windsor, of which solemnities ample particulars will be found in the Appendix.

CONCLUSION.

THUS have we followed, from her birth to the tomb, this illustrious personage, above fifty-seven years of whose life were spent in the full view of the British nation. Throughout the whole of that eventful period not a single instance was ever adduced of her having exercised the least influence in support of any particular line of politics, or in promoting the interests of any set of favourites. Faction itself, in the worst of times, was always dumb in regard to the public conduct of the Queen, while to her private virtues universal homage was willingly paid. In the discharge of the relative duties she stood unrivalled; and if she kept up the decorum of her court with unbending strictness, she did it without prejudice or partiality. Neither friendship nor consanguinity, power nor solicitation, could obtain a relaxation of the rule which she had laid down for the exclusion of improper persons from the royal circle.

The great difficulty of observing this law in a country where principle must often yield to expediency, is a proof of the integrity of Her Majesty,

who, amidst all the violence of party, maintained her stand with undeviating firmness.

On a similar ground she formed her household; and being once surrounded by persons whose virtue she approved, no consideration could prevail upon her to abandon them for new connexions. Some attempts to this effect were made by a greedy administration; but the resolution of the Queen soon compelled the meddlers to recede from their purpose. Hence it was that a train of domestics and attendants became grey in the royal service; so that the virtues cultivated there spread their influence in an exemplary manner, but without ostentation, throughout the land. May we not, therefore, safely say, that next to the decision of the national councils, under the blessing of Divine Providence, these realms are indebted for their preservation to the character of the court?—Certain it is, that while this steady moral light irradiated Britain, the courts on the continent, both great and small, exhibited a very different picture; the consequence of which was, that when the revolutionary volcano exploded, they wanted virtue to stem the torrent. It is true, the retired life of their majesties was sometimes reflected upon, as indicative of pride or parsimony, but very unjustly; for no persons of their supreme rank could be more easy of access, or condescending in their manners; and though a splendid life

did not comport with their inclination, they supported their establishments with dignity, and were constantly exercised in works of benevolence. A more magnificent style might, indeed, have attracted the admiration of the thoughtless, but it would neither have conduced to private felicity, nor have suited the habits of the people. The course which their majesties early adopted, and invariably pursued, secured domestic happiness, and general respect, though it could not escape the ridicule of fools, and the censure of the wicked.

In this choice the King and Queen acted by a conjunction of sentiment; for as their hearts were cemented by the purest affection, so they had a perfect similarity of taste. Had it been otherwise, the difference must have been seen in the course of half a century; and as nothing of the kind was ever observed, or alleged, it is a proof that the mind of the sovereign and that of his consort were in perfect unison. Such indeed was the harmony which subsisted between them, that it is difficult, in the estimation of character, to separate them from each other. Great liveliness of temper distinguished both; and this cheerfulness appeared in the freedom of their conversation, which was ever unreserved, except on politics, or where private reputation might be affected. In such cases they always observed so strict a silence as to put a complete

bar against flatterers and tale-bearers. Though doubtless they had their attachments, and both were well acquainted with the history of all the great families in the kingdom, they made it a point never to give cause of offence either to public parties or private individuals.

How well the Queen, in particular, bore her faculties, by steering clear of national concerns, appeared conspicuously when the great question of the regency was first agitated. Amidst the uproar occasioned by the obscuration of the royal intellect, Her Majesty evinced a mind of no ordinary vigour; and yet, while she watched with the most sedulous attention over the suspended rights of her husband, she intermeddled not with the public proceedings, so as to wound the feelings of her son. This is a fact, though a late right reverend biographer has asserted the contrary, in a memoir of himself, so full of contradictions, that the poison and the antidote may commonly be found in the same page.

Subsequently she has been reflected upon as having indulged too great a partiality for the Prince; and they who pretended to have discovered that fault, went so far as to charge Her Majesty with widening a family breach which she should have healed.

Into the cause of that rupture it would be impertinent to make any inquiry; but thus much may

be affirmed, without any hazard of denial, that if any one was injured more than another, it was the Queen herself, whose patience underwent many severe trials, which as none but Christian fortitude could have borne, so none but a Christian could have forgiven.

But the accusation most strongly urged and extensively accredited against Her Majesty was that of excessive penuriousness. This allegation was so often made, that at length numbers who wished otherwise were almost afraid that it must be true. The Queen was not ignorant of this aspersion, and yet she took no steps to clear herself from it; for the soundest of all reasons, since, as she observed, if she began to make a parade of benevolence, or performed something out of the common course, it would be said that this was done to remove a stigma, or to acquire popularity. She, therefore, very judiciously, went on in her usual course, dealing out charity liberally, but silently, and keeping close to her Saviour's precept, "Not to let the left hand know what the right hand did." To this rule, as far as could be practised, she adhered all her life, and nothing hardly ever gave her more uneasiness than to have any act of her munificence made known to the world.

Her constant injunction to those who had the disposal of her bounty was to keep the quarter from whence it came carefully concealed; and a violation

of this direction was the sure way to incur her displeasure. A lady, who had been the bearer of a considerable largess to a distressed family, was afterwards asked whether she had mentioned the matter to any person; and on being told that only another lady high in Her Majesty's confidence was made acquainted with it, "Then," said she, "there is one too many."

But though she could not endure the blazoning of her good deeds, she was always happy when her almoners exercised their discretion, by giving more than their verbal commission apparently authorised them to bestow.

The wife of a labouring man at Old Windsor, with a large family, and in great distress, was brought to-bed of twins; which being communicated to Her Majesty, she gave the informant twenty pounds to be laid out for their benefit. In doing this, the person found that the sum would be inadequate to purchase clothing for all the children, and to redeem the poor man's apparel and tools from the pawnbroker's. Relying, however, on the Queen's goodness, she ventured to add another twenty pounds to the royal donation; and on making her report, which she did with some apologies, Her Majesty stopped her by expressing the warmest approbation of her conduct, and graciously saying that she took it as a particular obligation.

All persons who knew the Queen felt the utmost

confidence on approaching her with a narrative of woe, because they were not only assured of meeting with a willing audience, but of receiving an ample contribution.

In the year 1779, when the Quebec frigate, Captain Farmer, was blown up after an action of four hours and a half off Brest, and only seventeen persons were saved, the Queen took a tender interest in the concerns of Mrs. Farmer, for whom, and her family, she procured a pension of eight hundred a-year. Another instance of her sympathetic feeling occurred at the same time, and connected with the same melancholy event. One of the persons saved from the Quebec was Mr. William Moore, the master's mate. But though he was taken up alive, he was dreadfully wounded. The pitiableness of his case being mentioned to Her Majesty by Mr. Ashburner, her silk-mercer, she caused her own physician and surgeon to attend Mr. Moore, and on his recovery obtained for him a lieutenant's commission; not long after which, through the same interest, he rose to the rank of master and commander.

The readiness of the Queen to receive applications, and her promptitude to grant substantial relief in cases of real distress, will appear from another instance.

One day a female, wholly unknown to Her Majesty, and without being introduced, presented a

petition at Windsor. The memorial stated that she was the widow of an officer, and left with twelve children wholly unprovided for. The Queen directed the strictest inquiries to be made into the character of the applicant; and the result being satisfactory, she took the whole of the children from the mother, and sent them to school. Sometime after, however, the lady married a person in opulent circumstances, on which Her Majesty very properly sent back the children, that her bounty might be transferred to objects who stood in real need of it.

How wrongfully the Queen was charged with being of a parsimonious disposition, the following schedule of her annual payments in works of benevolence will clearly shew.

	£.	s.	d.
In pensions and allowances to retired servants and other persons, a total sum of	4,311	16	0
To the support of a female charity for needlework, established in Bedfordshire, Her Majesty contributed more than fifty years the yearly subscription of	500	0	0
To the Ladies' Association (at Bailbrook House)	100	0	0
St. Martin's Charity School	31	10	0
Cheltenham ditto	10	10	0
Westminster Infirmary	31	10	0
Infirmary for diseases of the eyes	52	10	0
Infirmary at Windsor	52	10	0
Queen's School at Windsor	129	0	0

	£.	s.	d.
Ladies' School at the same place	21	0	0
The Lying-in Society	25	0	0
Princess Elizabeth's School at Old Windsor	5	5	0
Charity School at the same place	5	0	0
The Bible Society	10	10	0
The Benevolent Society	10	10	0
The Penny Club; an institution for encouraging economy and frugality in children and servants	11	11	0
	£5,299	2	0

Besides these stated payments, there were frequent public subscriptions, casual donations to a considerable amount, money laid out in school-books for children, and a large distribution of clothing, coals, and provisions, among the poor every winter. The consequence of all this was, that so far from having a balance in her favour at the year's end, Her Majesty generally found that she had exceeded her income. Parsimonious persons are commonly well acquainted with their pecuniary affairs, and are very attentive in keeping their accounts. This, however, was not the case with the Queen; and it was always more necessary, on the part of those who had the management of her concerns, to caution her against profuse liberality, than to encourage an increase of benevolence. While the King retained his faculties, Her Majesty was enabled to exercise her charitable disposition more

widely, and without much embarrassement, because she never failed to meet with a supply for that purpose, whenever she stood in need of it; but after his illness this source was dried up; and in addition to her own pension-list, she had also the private one of His Majesty to discharge out of her pocket, unless she chose to abandon the objects who had so long subsisted on the royal bounty. This the feeling heart of the Queen could not endure, and of course for the last seven years her expenditure was so very heavy, that it is not to be wondered she should be incumbered with debts, instead of leaving, what a censorious world anticipated, an accumulated hoard. It should also be observed that the Queen incurred considerable expenses by the presents which she was in the habit of making to friends and persons whom she wished to oblige; and as these gifts were always new purchases, Her Majesty's rule being never to part with what she bought for herself, or had received in a complimentary way from others, it accounts for the extensive wardrobe and valuable jewels of which she died possessed, and upon which so many invidious reflections have been made.

Such was the innate goodness of the Queen, that she rather encouraged than repelled applications for her favour and bounty. None were ever suffered to pass unnoticed; and the utmost solicitude was always evinced to pay early attention to all repre-

sentations, whatever might be the quarter from whence they proceeded.

In like manner Her Majesty was always anxious to express her sense of attentions shewn, or services rendered to her, although the same were performed by persons from whom she had a right to claim them.

The greatest kindness was uniformly manifested to servants of all classes; and whenever any of them, through age or infirmities, were rendered incapable of labour, they and their families were certain of receiving an adequate support. To do good, and diffuse comfort, constituted the chief pleasure of Her Majesty, whose active mind continued on the alert to the very last in devising measures of benevolence. One of her first acts, after taking up her residence at Kew, was to order a list of poor families in that neighbourhood to be made out, and suitable clothing provided, according to the number of persons in each. This was intended to be given to them on her departure to Windsor; but Providence having ordained otherwise for her, the royal bounty was bestowed upon the several objects shortly after her decease.

Among the public institutions under the immediate patronage of Her Majesty, and which for many years experienced her benefactions, were the Magdalen Hospital, the Asylum for Female Orphans, the Queen's Lying-in Hospital, the Royal

Society for the Support of decayed Musicians and their Families, the Westminster Hospital and Infirmary, the Ladies' Society for educating and employing the Female Poor, and the Royal Infirmary for Diseases of the Eyes.

The Queen was very fond of reading; and her libraries at Buckingham House, Windsor Castle, and Frogmore, exhibited abundant testimonies of her taste and judgment in the choice of books. With the best authors in English, French, and German, she was familiarly acquainted, and from many of them she made copious extracts. The Bible, however, was her chief favourite, and she spared no expense in collecting works of approved value, which had for their object the elucidation of the holy oracles. From these publications she made large transcripts; and her manuscript collections of this description, all in her own hand, amount to several volumes.

Whatever tended to the diffusion of religious knowledge always met with liberal encouragement from Her Majesty, who took great pleasure in the company of such persons as applied their talents to the confirmation of divine truth, by defending revelation, and clearing up its obscurities. Among those who were thus honoured, the two venerable sages, Bryant and De Luc, were most particularly esteemed by the Queen, who often visited the former at Cypenham; and the latter, who enjoyed

the situation of reader to Her Majesty above forty years, addressed a series of letters to her on the natural history of the Earth and of Man, which were afterwards published in the French language.

Though Her Majesty did not, like Queen Caroline, set up any pretensions to literature, she was an admirer of female genius, and took a pleasure in the company of ladies who had distinguished themselves by their talents and writings.

One of these was the very ingenious Mrs. Delany, the intimate friend of the Duchess-Dowager of Portland, and celebrated for her extraordinary accomplishments in embroidery, shell-work, painting, and natural history. On the death of the duchess-dowager, the King, who had frequently conversed with Mrs. Delany, at Bulstrode, was graciously pleased to assign her for a summer residence the use of a house completely furnished in St. Alban Street, Windsor, adjoining to the entrance of the castle; and, as a farther mark of the royal favour, His Majesty conferred upon her a pension of three hundred pounds a-year. The manner in which this pension was paid added to the gracefulness of the gift; for to prevent the customary deductions, the Queen herself, in the kindest, most condescending, and considerate manner, brought every half year the bank-notes in her pocket.

In the memoirs of the life of Mrs. Elizabeth Carter, so well known for her erudition, is the following anecdote:

"Mrs. Carter had the happiness of reckoning among her most intimate and valued friends, Lady Charlotte Finch, and her two daughters, Mrs. Fielding and Miss Finch, and Lady Cremorne. These ladies, who saw the Queen frequently, and were honoured by Her Majesty's particular regard, had probably mentioned to her occasionally a friend to whom they were so warmly attached; and, indeed, Mrs. Carter had had the honour of seeing some of the princesses in Lady Charlotte's apartments more than once. Her Majesty was therefore pleased to desire that Mrs. Carter should be introduced to her by Lady Cremorne; and in 1791, she received that distinguished honour at Lord Cremorne's house at Chelsea. The Queen had the goodness to enter into conversation with her, with such engaging sweetness and condescension, as to put her very soon at her ease. The conversation lasted for about an hour, and turned, among other topics, upon German literature. After that time, Her Majesty was pleased often to enquire after Mrs. Carter of Lady Charlotte Finch and Lady Cremorne; and several times did her the honour of lending her German books, and of sending her very flattering and obliging messages."

The high opinion which Her Majesty entertained of Mrs. Trimmer and Mrs. Hannah More has been already stated; and in addition to these ladies, it should be observed that Madame d'Arblay, Charlotte Smith, Helen Maria Williams, and Miss Cornelia Knight, were honoured with special marks of the royal favour.

In her choice of friends, the Queen was particularly select; but whenever she formed an attachment it became permanent, so that the circle of her intimates at the last consisted almost of persons nearly as old as herself. But, whatever might be her private sentiments in regard to individuals, she never manifested any thing in the shape of favouritism, by which prudent course she maintained her own independence of mind, and avoided all occasion of jealousy in others.

Though her late Majesty could never be called a beautiful woman, she had an agreeableness of person which made a strong impression upon those who were admitted to her presence; and this pleasing appearance, with an uncommon liveliness of the visual organs, continued even when the infirmities of extreme senility, and the encroaching ravages of an incurable disease, occasioned her to stoop pretty much, and when, in the striking language of the royal moralist, she found "the grasshopper to have become a burthen."

The Queen was extremely conversable, and very correct in her language, with little, if any thing, of a foreign accent, though she retained to the last a fondness for her native tongue; nor could any person please her better than by displaying an acquaintance with German literature.

Whenever any thing very particular took her fancy, either in discourse or reading, she never failed to make a memorandum of the occurrence, or to mark the passage, for farther consideration and enquiry. By this practice of taking notes of what she read, her memory became stored with a great variety of general knowledge; and thus there were few subjects, or even authors of any consequence, that had escaped her observation.

Till of late years, she amused herself very much in drawing, for which she had a fine taste, as she also had for music; and Mary, the wife of William of Orange, could not have been fonder of her needle than the wife of George the Third.

She was, through life, exceedingly industrious; and one of the principal complaints which she made in her last illness was the want of employment. As long as health permitted, she had always some design in hand; and when her visitors frequently wondered how she got through so much, the reply was, that she never let a single hour pass unoccupied. But if the Queen had the carefulness of

Martha, she did not suffer worldly things to engross her thoughts, and to exclude the most important of all considerations. She managed her affairs with discretion; every pursuit in which she engaged had utility for its object. An habitual sense of religion sanctified her conduct throughout life, and she discharged its several duties with perfect ease and uniform consistency. Her piety was neither austere nor enthusiastic; but a mild and steady principle, which governed her temper, enlivened her conversation, and evinced its purity in all her actions. Justly it is said by one who knew the Queen most intimately, that no person could be a more exact observer of any promise given, or engagement contracted; none more cautious of betraying a secret confided; none more scrupulous in the discrimination of property, or in claiming any thing to which a clear right was not established; and none was more anxious to avoid calling upon those about her for any service, or act, which they could not conscientiously perform.

To a Christian spirit like this, death could have no terrors; and hence it was, that though the passage out of life was dark and tempestuous, she bore the conflict with fortitude, and passed her dreary hours in prayer and meditation, the efficacy of which appeared in the serenity that beamed upon her countenance as the mortal coil drew near its

close; and when the vital spark had fled, left an impressive smile upon the features characteristic of that joy into which the royal sufferer, like the weather-beaten mariner, had at last entered.

After this extinction of a light which had shone upon Britain nearly sixty years, with unvaried brightness, an example of every practical virtue, it might have been expected that the national feeling would have marked a sense of the public loss by something more than the external garb and formal trappings of woe. The funeral of Her Majesty did indeed excite public curiosity; and in several places of worship discourses were delivered suitable to the occasion, some of which were afterwards printed; but even this token of respect was far from being general; and in one of the greatest parishes within the precincts of the court there was neither service nor sermon on that day.

Would, however, that this were the only instance of disrespect and ingratitude of which the living may justly complain, and at which posterity will not fail to wonder.

All the world now knows that so far from "making gold her hope, and fine gold her confidence," the late Queen impoverished herself in "dealing out bread to the hungry, and clothing the naked; in supporting the poor and the fatherless, and in causing the widow's heart to sing for joy."

By these good deeds, not casual ones, but constant and extensive, she has left a personal estate encumbered with debts, for the discharge of which painful sacrifices are making on the part of the representatives of Her Majesty, certainly honourable in the highest degree to themselves, but far otherwise as the case stands in regard to the nation. That the personal effects of the Queen, and, above all, the literary collections which constituted so much of the pleasure of her life, should be scattered abroad by a public sale, is discreditable in every respect; and particularly so when contrasted with the enormous settlements that have been made by parliament upon absolute strangers, for contingent benefits that have been destroyed in the moment of expectation, without leaving any thing behind but painful remembrance and a heavy expenditure.

But this is a sickening reflection, from which we turn, to close the memoir of departed excellence with the consoling language of our great moral poet:

When faith and love, which parted from thee never,
Had ripen'd thy just soul to dwell with God,
Meekly thou didst resign this earthly load
Of death, call'd life, which us from life doth sever.
Thy works and alms, and all thy good endeavour
Stay'd not behind, or in the grave were trod;
But as Faith pointed with her golden rod,
Followed thee up to joy and bliss for ever.

Love led them on, and Faith, who knew them best,
Thy handmaids clad them o'er with purple beams
And azure wings, that up they flew so drest,
And spake the truth of thee on glorious themes
Before the Judge, who thenceforth bid thee rest,
And drink thy fill of pure immortal streams.

MILTON.

APPENDIX.

PARTICULARS OF THE LYING-IN-STATE, AND THE FUNERAL OBSEQUIES, OF HER LATE MAJESTY.

Tuesday, December the first, being the day appointed for admitting spectators to the ceremony of lying-in-state, all who were favoured with tickets were desired to be at Kew between ten and four o'clock. On entering the funeral apartments, the reason of this limitation was immediately apparent; for the house where the Queen breathed her last is only an appendage to the palace, and was used formerly as a royal nursery. Such a habitation, therefore, however comfortable it might be, was ill calculated for the pomp of state; and a numerous train of domestics would only have incommoded the visitors. Yet, the rank of the deceased required the observance of some formalities; and though the manager could not produce a magnificent appearance, he judiciously contrived to give to the scene a solemn effect.

The entrance was the front door of the palace, from the vestibule of which the spectators immediately entered the hall of state. This apartment was entirely clothed with Roman draperies of black cloth, and round the sides were placed a vast number of double wax lights in silver sconces.

The coffin was placed on a raised platform, the head under a canopied recess, and partially covered with a superb black velvet pall lined with white satin, and with three escutcheons on each side of it. Near the head was placed the coronet, on a rich cushion of crimson velvet, bordered with gold fringe, and having a large tassel of gold at each corner. On the other side of the royal coffin were three large silver candlesticks with wax lights, placed on platforms. Under the canopy at the head were the united arms, finely painted, on a lozenge-shaped hatch

ment of white satin. At the head of the coffin, immediately under the hatchment, sat the Countess-Dowager of Harcourt, veiled with black crape, and supported by two gentlemen ushers. On each side of the coffin sat two ladies of the bedchamber, veiled also; and around the whole was a partition hung with black cloth, within which were placed, at each corner, two yeomen of the guard, in black cloth dresses, with the royal crown, and the rose, thistle, and shamrock, embroidered in gold and silver, on the breast and on the back, and having their partizans entirely covered with crape. From the state-room the company passed on through another apartment, fitted up in the same solemn manner, with black drapery and silver sconces; and thence through the passages to the gardens at the back of the palace, and so out into the carriage-road by the river.

Wednesday, the second, being the day appointed for the consignament of the mortal remains of Her late Majesty to their "kindred dust," the roads to Kew were at an early hour crowded to excess with persons on foot, on horseback, and in all sorts of vehicles, hastening to view the melancholy procession. The public offices were all shut up, and the shops in the metropolis were closed, except those for the sale of the necessaries of life. At the Exchange and the docks all business was suspended; and all who could afford it were arrayed in decent mourning.

At Kew, the honorary guard, stationed at the palace while the remains of Her late Majesty were lying-in-state, turned out at about half-past seven o'clock. The officers appeared with crape scarfs and sashes: crape was also placed round their caps, and round the hilts of their swords. They remained on duty in the front of the palace until the royal remains were removed. At eight o'clock, a detachment from the 16th lancers made their appearance, slowly moving along the Windsor road, and advancing towards Kew. They were stationed in two bodies on Kew-Green. The road, in the vicinage of the palace, was patrolled during the morning by small parties of the same regiment. At half-past eight o'clock the hearse destined to convey the royal corpse to Windsor arrived at the palace. It was accompanied by fifty undertakers' assistants on horseback, in deep mourning, with silk scarfs, hat-bands, &c. and escorted by a body of lancers. The

road, Kew-green, the path-ways, and every open space, was crowded with spectators and carriages. At a quarter after nine o'clock, an additional number of lancers scoured the roads, and prevented the approach of carriages, except those belonging to persons who were to take a part in the solemn ceremony. Soon after, the larger body of lancers, who had been stationed on Kew-green, moved towards the palace. A part of them formed on each side of the road, obliging the spectators to fall back pretty close to the Thames. The remainder of this body were subdivided into two parties; one to precede, and one to follow the hearse. At ten o'clock the procession was formed, and the cavalcade set out at a slow and solemn pace.—The procession having crossed the bridge, slowly moved to the left, followed by an incalculable number of persons on foot, and an immensity of carriages, by way of Brentford and Hounslow, towards Windsor. Her Majesty's private carriages were filled with the ladies, noblemen, and gentlemen, who occupied the principal situations in her household.

The procession did not reach Frogmore until seven o'clock in the evening, when it was received by a captain's guard of honour, with a standard, who mounted guard early in the day, and remained under arms to receive His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, who arrived at four o'clock, accompanied by his equerries and Viscount Jocelyn. Shortly before the arrival of the Prince Regent, the Duke of York arrived at Frogmore, to dine with his royal brother. A plain dinner was also provided, quite in a private manner, for the cabinet ministers, and some of the principal personages engaged in the procession. The Duke of Sussex arrived at Frogmore at six o'clock, after having privately dined at Datchet.

At twenty minutes past seven o'clock in the evening, the procession set out from Frogmore to St. George's chapel in the following order:

Servants and Grooms of the Royal Family, Prince Regent,
His Majesty, and Her Majesty,
each bearing a flambeau.
Trumpets and kettle drums, mounted, and
the drums and fifes of the foot guards.
Knight-Marshal's Men on foot (with black staves.)

The coaches of the Royal Family, all led
by Servants in deep mourning.
One Coach drawn by six Greys;
another by six fine Black Horses;
two drawn by six Greys,
and three by six Bay Horses.

These carriages belonged to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, the Duke of Gloucester, and Prince Leopold, and contained some of the principal personages belonging to the royal household.

Eighty Servants belonging to the junior branches of the
Royal Household on foot, two by two,
all in full mourning, with black staves;
eight Earl Marshal's Men, in their red and gold uniforms,
with crape;
and twenty-six Horsemen, in full mourning, preceded
THE HEARSE,
Drawn by eight of the late Queen's Horses,
driven by her Body Coachman.
One of the King's Carriages, drawn by a full set
of the King's Black Horses,
conveying the Chief Mourner and his two Supporters.
Twenty Yeomen of the Guard in mourning,
with partizans reversed, flanked the Hearse and Carriage.
One of the King's Carriages, drawn by six Horses,
conveying the Train Bearers of the Chief Mourner.
Carriages of the King, drawn by six Horses, conveying
their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of York and Sussex.
An escort of Lancers flanked the Hearse
and the above attendant Carriages.
Carriages of the King, conveying the Train Bearers
of the Dukes of York and Sussex.
Carriages of the Queen which attended in
the procession from Kew.
Carriages of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent.
Guard of Lancers which attended the Hearse
to Datchet Bridge.

Foot Guards, stationary, every sixth man bearing a flambeau, lined the procession from Frogmore to St. George's Chapel.

The whole state part of the procession consisted of twenty-three carriages, the greater part of which were drawn by six horses each. The yeomen of the guard were in full mourning, escorting each carriage.

At seven o'clock, the bell of the chapel began to toll, as an intimation that the procession had moved from Frogmore; while the marshals and the persons belonging to the Lord Chamberlain's Office began to call over, and to form those who were to precede the procession into the choir. This was managed with great decorum, and so as scarcely to disturb the general silence that reigned throughout the arcades of this noble building. The interval till eight o'clock was thus occupied; when the quick moving of lights and general bustle discovered through the windows, announced the arrival of the funeral cavalcade. When the procession had reached the south door of St. George's Chapel, the servants and grooms, the trumpets and drums, and the knight marshals' men, filed without the door. The royal body was then removed by ten yeomen of the guard from the hearse, and placed upon a car,* entirely covered with black velvet, which was then drawn on by yeomen of the guard, who worked at its handles, but who were concealed from public view by a large velvet pall, which was thrown over the coffin, and hung down at the sides, so as to cover the men who drew the car at each side. At this moment the notes of the organ were heard, and the choir entered, each singer bearing a lighted taper in his hand, and singing the well-known anthem from Croft's burial-service. The strength and completeness of this choral band, at least treble the usual number allotted to the cathedral service, and the select members of the principal choirs in and near the metropolis, breaking in upon the silence which before prevailed, produced an effect truly solemn and impressive. The procession then entered by the south door of the chapel, nearly in the following order:

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* Constructed by Sir William Congreve. On all former occasions the coffin was carried into the church on the shoulders of yeomen of the guard; but the weight was often found insupportable; and after the interment of the Princess Charlotte, it was said that one of the bearers had actually died of the injury he sustained in the performance of this duty. To obviate not only a recurrence of this injury, but even the unpleasant interruption which the change of bearers to relieve each other necessarily occasions in the church, during the performance of the solemn ceremony, this car was contrived, about five feet in height, and supported by three separate axle-trees, which moved two small wheels each. The axles were constructed to swing with facility, and make a short turn in a small circle, so as to make its evolutions with ease on the platform.

Poor Knights of Windsor.
Pages of the Royal Family, Prince Regent, King, and Queen.
H. F. Grobecker, Christopher Papendick, Wm. Duncan, and Paul Robinson, Esqrs. Gentlemen Ushers.
Quarterly Waiters to the King and Queen.
Pages of honour to the King and Queen.
Apothecaries to Prince Regent, King, and Queen.
Surgeons to Prince Regent, King, and Queen.
Curates and Rectors of Kew and Windsor.
Grooms of the Privy Chamber to the King and Queen.
Gentlemen Ushers daily Waiters to the King.
Third Gentleman Usher Daily Waiter to the Queen.
Serjeant Surgeons to the King.
Physicians to the Prince, King, and Queen.
Sir Francis Milman, Sir Henry Halford, and Dr. Baillie.
Clerks of the Closet to the Prince.
Household Chaplain (at Windsor) to the King.
Equerries to the Royal Family.
Military Secretary to the Commander-in-chief.
Equerries to the Prince Regent.
Clerk, Marshal, and First Equerry to the Prince.
Quarter-Master-General. Adjutant General.
Equerries to the King.
Clerk, Marshal, and First Equerry to the King.
Equerries to the Queen.
Gentlemen Ushers of the Privy Chamber to the King and Queen.
Officers of the Duchy of Cornwall.
Chamberlain to the Great Steward of Scotland.
Grooms of the Bed Chamber to the King.
Master of the Robes to the King.
Pursuivants.
King's Solicitor-General and Attorney-General.
Queen's Solicitor-General and Attorney-General.
Comptroller and Treasurer of the King's Household.
Heralds.
Privy Purse and Private Secretary to the Prince.
Private Secretary and Treasurer to the King.
Lord Chief Baron.
Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.
Vice-Chancellor.
Master of the Rolls.

Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench.
Lords of the Bed Chamber to the Queen.
Groom of the Stole to the King (Windsor Establishment.)
Vice-Chamberlain to the King (Windsor Establishment,)
on the right,
and Master of the Household to the King,
and Secretary to the Groom of the Stole
(Windsor Establishment), on the left.
Bishop of London, Bishop of Salisbury, Chancellor of the Order of the Garter, on the right; and Bishop of Exeter, Clerk of the Closet to the King, on the left.
Heralds.
The Minister of State of Hanover.
The Deputy Earl Marshal.
His Majesty's Ministers.
The Archbishop of York.
The Lord Chancellor.
The Archbishop of Canterbury.
Norroy King of Arms.

Captain of Yeomen of Guards.	Captain of Gentlemen Pensioners.
Master of the Horse to the Queen.	Groom of the Stole to the King.

Master of the Horse to the Queen.
Lord Steward of the King's Household.
Master of the King's Household on the right,
and Secretary to Lord Steward on the left.
Choir of Windsor.
Prebendaries.
Dean.
The Crown of the Queen borne on a black velvet Cushion,
by Clarenceux King of Arms.
Supported on the right by the First Gentleman Usher,
Daily Waiter to the Queen,
and on the left by the Second Gentleman Usher,
Daily Waiter to the Queen.
Secretary to the Lord Chamberlain.
Lord Chamberlain, King's Household.
Garter Principal King of Arms.
Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, on the right;
and the First Gentleman Usher Daily Waiter to the King,
on the left.
The Lord Chamberlain to the Queen.

THE ROYAL BODY.
The Pall supported on the right by the Dukes of Newcastle, Montrose, and Beaufort;
and on the left by the Dukes of Northumberland, Dorset, and St. Albans.
The Canopy supported on each side by five Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber.
The Coffin was covered with a fine Holland Sheet and a black Velvet Pall, adorned with ten Escutcheons, drawn by ten Yeomen of the Guard,
under a Canopy of black Velvet.
The Royal Body was followed by the PRINCE REGENT, as CHIEF MOURNER,
supported by the Marquisses of Buckingham and Winchester; and attended by the Marquisses of Bath, Salisbury, Headfort, Cornwallis, and Camden, as train-bearers;
next followed, as assistants to the Chief Mourner,
Earl Delawarr, Viscounts Lake and Bulkeley,
Lords Boston, Amherst, Arden, Greaves, Longford, Beresford, Rivers, Grenville, St. Helen's, Henley, and Hill.
Princes of the Blood Royal.
Train Bearers.
The Vice-Chamberlain to the Queen.
Mistress of the Robes.
Ladies of the Bedchamber.
Keeper of the Robes.
Women of the Bedchamber to the Queen.
Maids of Honour.
Women Attendants on the Queen.
Ten Gentlemen Pensioners with their Axes reversed.
Forty Yeomen of the Guard with their Partizans reversed.

As these severally entered the chapel, the van of the procession moved forwards into the choir; the Windsor knights, pages, ushers, and other officers, ranged themselves around and on the steps of the altar. The members of the royal family, and those noblemen on whom the order of the garter had been conferred, stationed themselves in their respective stalls; the great dignitaries of the church, of whom were present the Archbishops of York and Canterbury, with the Bishops of London and Salisbury, occupied their respective places within the choir. The royal

body having been carried to the steps of the altar, was placed on the platform prepared to receive it: the pall was removed, and the crown and cushion placed on the coffin. The Prince Regent, as chief mourner, being seated in a chair at the head of the corpse, surrounded by his supporters and train-bearers, standing, the funeral-service commenced in the usual manner, as performed in cathedrals, and at the demise of great and illustrious persons. The first psalm having been chaunted by the choir, in the same finished manner as the anthem with which the ceremony commenced, the service was read by the Honourable Dr. Hobart, Dean of Windsor, in that unaffected and impressive manner which is required by this sublime portion of our rubric. At the end of the first part, the celebrated anthem by Kent, "Hear my Prayer," was introduced, and executed in a very finished manner. The body of Her Majesty was then let down into the vault prepared for it, and the solemnity was closed in the manner usual on these occasions, by the venerable Sir Isaac Heard, who pronounced in a distinct voice, and standing near the grave, the style and titles of Her late Majesty. As the mourners and attendants on this striking ceremony began slowly to separate, and to quit the chapel, the notes of the organ again filled the edifice, and produced at once the richest and most soothing effect. The numerous company separated without the least disorder or inconvenience; and in a few minutes after the obsequies of Her late Majesty had closed, no vestige remained of the solemn pageantry which had just passed before the eyes of the spectators. The royal chief mourner was magnificently attired in a large mourning cloak, decorated with a brilliant embossed star. Above this appeared first the splendid collar of the order of the garter, the collar of the Bath, the collar of the golden fleece, and the collar of the royal Hanoverian Guelphic order. His royal highness appeared much dejected, and at one time sobbed aloud. The distinguished personages who were present at this solemn scene, deeply sympathized in this afflicting trial of filial affection; and the public demeanour throughout the whole ceremony evinced a general esteem for the unostentatious benevolence, genuine virtues, and correct example which are now extinguished in the grave. During the funeral service, the royal chief mourner alone was

seated. Lord Liverpool carried the sword of state before his royal highness. The Prince withdrew from the sad scene, accompanied by the Dukes of York and Sussex, the Dukes of Montrose, Beaufort, and Newcastle, at twenty-five minutes before ten.

Two Persian princes were amongst the spectators in the organ-loft. They were particularly remarked for the sorrowful interest with which they contemplated the awful scene, and also by the richness and singularity of their costume.

Of His Majesty's ministers, the following were present: Lords Liverpool and Sidmouth; the Lord Privy Seal, the Lord President, the Right Honourable C. Bathurst, G. Canning, and W. W. Pole.

The appearance of the metropolis was nearly similar to that of a Sunday. At several churches discourses were delivered suitable to the occasion. The sessions at the Old Bailey were opened *pro formâ*, but out of respect to the day, were immediately adjourned. The great bell of St. Paul's tolled at intervals up to the period of interment, which was announced by the firing of the Tower and Park guns. As far as we have learned, the day was observed with equal respect in the country. The royal standard was hoisted half-mast high, on board the men of war in commission at the several out-ports; and each ship fired thirty minute guns. The same ceremonies were observed at all the garrisons throughout the united kingdom.

THE WILL OF HER MAJESTY.

This is the last Will and Testament of me, CHARLOTTE, Queen of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

I direct all my debts, the probate of my Will, and testamentary legacies and annuities, to be paid out of my personal property, or out of the value arising from the sale of the personals, if there should not at the period of my death be a sufficient sum in my treasury to provide for such legacies and annuities.

My property consists of a real estate in New Windsor, called the Lower Lodge, and of personals of various descriptions, those of chief value being the jewels in the care and custody of ( ), or deposited ( ).

These jewels are classed as follows:

First.—Those which the King bought for fifty thousand pounds, in the year , and gave to me.

Secondly.—Those presented to me by the Nabob of Arcot.

Thirdly.—Those purchased by myself at various periods, or being presents made to me on birth-days and other occasions.

In the event of the King, my beloved husband, surviving me, and if it shall please the Almighty to relieve him from the dreadful malady with which he is at present afflicted, I give and bequeath to him the jewels which His Majesty purchased for the sum of fifty thousand pounds, and gave to me as beforesaid; but if the King should not survive me, or if he should unfortunately not, previously to his death, be restored to a sound state of mind, then, and in that case only, I give and bequeath the said jewels to the House of Hanover, to be settled upon it, and considered as an heir loom, in the direct line of succession of that house, as established by the laws and constitution of the House of Hanover.

My eldest daughter, the Queen-Dowager of Wirtemberg, having been so long established in Germany, and

being so amply provided for in all respects, I give and bequeath the jewels received from the Nabob of Arcot to my four remaining daughters, or to the survivors or survivor, in case either or any of them should die before me; and I direct that these jewels shall be sold, and that the produce, subject to the charge and exceptions provided for in the first item of this my last Will and Testament, shall be divided among them, my said four remaining daughters, or the survivors, share and share alike.

I give and bequeath my remaining jewels to my four younger daughters aforesaid, or in the event of either or any of them dying before me, to the survivors, to be divided in equal shares between them, according to a valuation, to be made under the direction of my executors, to be hereafter named.

The house and garden at Frogmore, and the Shawe estate, having been granted by act of parliament of 1807 to me, my executors, administrators, and assigns, for the term of ninety-nine years, if I and my four daughters residing in England, should so long live, I conceive that these estates being so vested in me, I may dispose of them by will, or by any other deed in writing, and in any manner I may think proper.

I therefore give and bequeath my right and property in the lease and grant of the aforesaid estates of Frogmore and Shawe, with the several buildings thereon, to my eldest unmarried daughter, Augusta-Sophia; but as the expense of keeping it up may prove too considerable for her means, it is my earnest desire and wish, and my will and pleasure, that the possession of the said house and buildings and estate should in that case revert to the crown; and that a due and sufficient compensation should be made to my said daughter Augusta-Sophia, for the value of the lease, and of the right and the property arising from the parliamentary grant, and from this my disposal of this property. It is also my earnest desire and hope, that in the valuation of such right and property, due attention may be paid to the improved state of the house and grounds, and of the estates, and to their value as now established. In this expression of my wish and desire, as to the disposal of the house and grounds at Frogmore, and of the Shawe estate, I am anxious that it should be clearly understood, that my object is that my daughter Augusta should receive

in money the full value of that property, estimated according to my lease of it, and the parliamentary grant, and with a due consideration to the improvements made, whether it shall please my beloved son, the Prince Regent, to reserve the possession of the said house and grounds, and estate, as an appendage to Windsor Castle, or to authorise any other disposal of them; and provided also that the arrangement by which the payment of the amount of such valuation is secured to my said daughter Augusta-Sophia, shall preclude any appropriation of the said house, and grounds, and estate, which shall be directed or authorised, towards giving due and sufficient effect to this my last Will, in respect to the same.

I further give and bequeath the fixtures, the articles of common household furniture, and the live and dead stock within the said house at Frogmore, or on the said estate, to my said daughter Augusta-Sophia.

I give and bequeath my real estate in New Windsor, purchased of the late Duke of St. Albans, as specified in the abstract of deeds annexed to this my last Will and Testament, now commonly called the Lower Lodge, and its appendages and appurtenances, to my youngest daughter Sophia.

I give and bequeath my books, plate, house-linen, china, pictures, drawings, prints, all articles of ornamental furniture, and all other valuables and personals, to be divided in equal shares, according to a distribution and valuation to be made under the direction of my executors, among my four younger daughters aforesaid, saving and excepting such articles as shall be specified herein after, or in a codicil to this my last Will and Testament, or in a list annexed to it.

Having brought from Mecklenburg various property, as specified in the list No. 1, annexed to this my last Will and Testament, it is my wish and desire, and my last will and pleasure, that such property should revert to the House of Mecklenburgh-Strelitz; and I direct that it shall be sent back to the senior branch of that House.

I give and bequeath, as specified in the list No. 2, annexed to this my last Will and Testament, to be paid out of the value of my personal property, within six months after my death.

I nominate and appoint Charles-George Lord Arden

and M. Gen. Herbert Taylor, to be trustees for the property herein bequeathed to my daughters Elizabeth and Mary, which property is hereby left to them independent of any husbands they have, or may have, for their sole benefit and use, and for which their receipts shall be a full discharge to the said trustees.

I nominate and appoint Charles-George Lord Arden and M. Gen. Herbert Taylor, to be executors to this my Will; and I do hereby declare this to be my last Will and Testament.

In witness whereof, I, the said Charlotte, Queen of the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, have to this, my last Will and Testament, set my Hand and Seal this sixteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

(Signed)
CHARLOTTE R. (Seal.)

Signed, sealed, published, and declared, by the said Charlotte, Queen of the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, as and for her last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, who, in her presence, and at her desire, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses hereof.

(Signed) H. TAYLOR,
FR. MILMAN,
HENRY HALFORD.

The blanks in the Will were occasioned by the want of immediate recollection on the part of the testator, as to the hands or places where the property mentioned was deposited. Thus also it happens, that no such lists as those stated by Her Majesty could afterwards be found after a most diligent search, on which account the executors found themselves necessitated to make a joint affidavit to that effect in the Commons, as follows:

Appeared personally the Right Honorable Charles-George Lord Arden, and Herbert Taylor, of Windsor, in the county of Berks, Esquire, and being duly sworn to depose the truth, made oath that they are the executors named in the last Will and Testament of Her Most Excellent Majesty Charlotte, Queen of the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, deceased, bearing date the 16th day of November, 1818. And the appearer Herbert Taylor for himself saith, that immediately after the execution of the said Will by her said Most Excellent Majesty, it was delivered to him for safe custody, and he thereupon sealed up the same in the presence of her said Majesty in an envelope from which it had been taken, for the purpose of being executed as aforesaid; and the said Will remained so sealed up in his possession until the death of Her said Majesty, which happened on Tuesday the 17th day of November, 1818. And both the appearers for themselves say that on the following day, to wit, the 18th day of the said month of November, the said Will was opened and read by them. And they then observed the following clause in the seventh page of the said Will, viz. "Having brought from Mecklenburg various property, "as specified in the list No. 1, annexed to this my last "Will and Testament, it is my wish and desire, and my "last will and pleasure, that such property shall revert to "the House of Mecklenburg-Strelitz; and I direct that "it shall be sent back to the senior branch of that "House.—I give and bequeath, as specified in the list "No. 2, annexed to this my last Will and Testament, to "be paid out of the value of my personal property within "six months after my death."

And they further made oath, that no list of property as stated to be annexed to the said Will under the mark No. 1, or any list of request also stated to be annexed under the mark No. 2, were found annexed to the said Will, or contained in the envelope in which the said Will was inclosed as aforesaid.

And the appearers further make oath and say, that they have carefully looked over and inspected the papers left by Her said Most Excellent Majesty, and that no such lists as those referred to in the said clauses have been discovered or found by them, or either of them, and they do verily and in their consciences believe that no such lists

were ever prepared by Her said Majesty, and that she died without preparing the same, though it is within the knowledge of the appearer Herbert Taylor, that Her said Majesty had signified her intention to prepare the lists as referred to in the said clauses under the marks No. 1 and No. 2, and to have annexed them to the said Will, so as to have formed part thereof.

(Signed) ARDEN,
H. TAYLOR.

The eighth day of January, 1819, the said Right Honourable Charles-George Lord Arden, and Herbert Taylor, Esq. were duly sworn to the truth of this affidavit. Before me,

(Signed) S. B. BURNABY, Surrogate.
Present—ILTED NICHOLL, Not. Pub.

It should be here observed that the value of the personal property sworn to in the probate was under one hundred and forty thousand pounds; that in consequence of the verbal expression of the Queen's intentions, a very fine set of garnets and brilliants has been considered as a legacy to her eldest daughter, the Queen Dowager of Wirtemberg, and sent to their sister by the princesses here; and that the whole of the wardrobe made and unmade has been given by their royal highnesses to Her Majesty's attached and faithful attendant Mrs. Beckendorff.

ERRATA.

Page 29, l. *ult.* for "sixteenth," read "nineteenth."
65, l. 1, in some copies, for "period," read "fallacious."
169, Miss Chudleigh was maid of honour to the Princess-Dowager of Wales, and not to the Queen.
183, l. 19, for "Lutheruan," read "Lutheran."
257, l. 22, for "suppers," read "supper-money."

THE END.

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